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THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,863
SATURDAY 6 MARCH 1999
(IR80p) 70p

10 PAGES OF SPORT

ESSENTIAL PREVIEWS TO THE FIVE NATIONS, FA CUP AND AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

FASHION'S GREATEST LIVING ARTIST

EXCLUSIVE PICTURES: MAGAZINE

Lawrence blunder: 80 under guard

By Jason Bennetto and Ian Burrell

EIGHTY PEOPLE, including an MP, are under police protection after the accidental publication of the names and addresses of informants who helped police investigating the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence.

At least seven families from south-east London have asked Greenwich Borough Council, the local authority, to rehouse them because they fear assault and intimidation. One family has already been moved, while another has received hate mail. Scotland Yard has also helped to rehouse an unknown number of informants.

The disclosure came as the only police officer to face disciplinary action for his role in the Lawrence débâcle appeared at a hearing yesterday. Detective Inspector Benjamin Bullock, who was second-in-command of the murder investigation, is accused of seven counts of neglect of duty.

In an extremely unusual move, Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, and their solicitor, Imran Khan, were allowed to attend the preliminary hearing of the tribunal, held in south London. But Mr Khan was refused permission to sit through the full hearing and address the disciplinary panel. Mr Khan said he was considering applying for a judicial review of the decision to bar him.

The hearing was adjourned until 21 June to give Det Insp Bullock and his lawyers time to prepare their defence.

The publication last week of Sir William Macpherson's inquiry into the police investigation of Stephen's murder was seriously marred by the accidental inclusion in the report's appendices of 40 names and address of police informants.

Hundreds of copies of the report were circulated, including some copies to representatives of the five white men suspected of carrying out the killing, the media, and the public. Many of the named informants lived on an estate linked to the five men accused of the murder.

Yesterday, the full repercussions began to emerge. Apart from the family that has already been moved, five others are in the process of switching houses, and two more have asked to be relocated outside the borough. Other residents have asked for improved security for their homes.

Clive Efford, the local Labour MP, is among those being given extra police protection after being identified as a potential target. He told BBC Radio 5 Live: "The police are keeping a close eye on people they consider to be vulnerable in the area and as someone who has a high profile here they are paying attention to me as well."

Harcourt Alleyne, Greenwich's director of racial equality, said: "There are many people who are fearful at the moment because their names might have been released, accidentally albeit, but they have reason to have fears for their safety and that of their children and others."

Lewisham Race Equality Council said yesterday that rumours were sweeping the area of further racist attacks by gangs from the Eltham area.

Increased activity by far-right extremists has also been detected outside London. In Swindon, British National Party activists have been trying to exploit people's fears over the arrival in their midst of refugee families.

A spokesman for Searchlight, the anti-fascist organisation, said many far-right groups were terrified of proposed government crackdown on racism.

Archer's son sacked after shares investigation

By Paul Lashmar

JAMES ARCHER, the son of the millionaire novelist Lord Archer, has been sacked from his top City job amid allegations of improper share dealing. Two managers of the flamboyant trading team nicknamed "the Flaming Ferraris" were also sacked by the City bank, Credit Suisse First Boston, yesterday.

Mr Archer's bosses, David Crisanti, 34 and Adrian Ezra, 31, were dismissed after an investigation by the bank into share dealing by 24-year-old Mr Archer. Mr Ezra and Mr Crisanti were not involved in the deals, which took place in December, but the bank was concerned about the way they had supervised Mr Archer. In a statement yesterday, CSFB, based in Canary Wharf, east London, said that the three men "have been dismissed for cause, following the completion of our internal investigation".

Archer: improper dealing

External investigations are also under way, and the Swedish stock exchange is expected to complete its inquiry next week.

Mr Archer will lose his share of £5m in bonus payments.

At the centre of the investigations are claims that Mr Archer, in one day, aggressively sold £600,000 shares in Stora, a wood pulp company and one of Sweden's biggest firms, in an attempt to drive down the value of the Stockholm market index.

It is claimed that Mr Archer intended then to make profits by trading in the futures market – really a form of gambling on the future value of shares, commodities and stock markets.

A model taking to the catwalk in a show by Gianna Versace yesterday ended the autumn and winter collections in Milan fashion week *Stefano Rellandini/Reuters*

Secret deal gave free house plus £1million to Venables

By Andrew Buncombe and Nick Harris

DETAILS EMERGED last night of a secret multi-million pound deal with the former England coach Terry Venables to bring him to a struggling First Division club.

With Crystal Palace facing financial ruin, it was disclosed that he received a package worth millions to lure him to the club he quit last month as head coach. A leaked letter by the former chief executive Jim McAvoy, also claims the club could not afford Mr Venables' deal. Mr McAvoy says in the letter to other club directors that the contract included:

- A tax-free salary of £750,000 (worth £1.1m);
- A £650,000 house, with Mr Venables retaining the equity interest in the property;
- A £20,000 relocation fee;
- A one-off fee of £135,000 for entering into negotiations with the club chairman, Mark Goldberg;
- Options on 5 per cent of all club shares;
- A 5-per-cent bonus on savings from the £10m transfer budget.

In the letter Mr McAvoy says the nature of the deal had been brokered by Mr Goldberg – a fan of Crystal Palace since his schooldays – because of personal pride. "Early on in the discussion Mark made the astonishing statement that he didn't want anyone to think that he couldn't afford Terry Venables," he says.

Mr McAvoy adds that despite his position with the club, he was kept out of negotiations because he had started to question the contract Mr Goldberg was drawing up for the former England coach. From there onwards he and the rest of the club's directors had to deal with Mr Venables' agent.

Details of the deal come against a backdrop of crisis at the south London club, struggling mid-table in the First Division. Administrators were called in this week to sort out its debts of more than £20m.

It is understood that of the £20m, £5m is owed in outstanding transfer fees.

Mr McAvoy says the Venables deal put Crystal Palace in "an impossible situation". "The aims and objectives of the head coach and chairman were in ... conflict with the needs and obligations of the company."

Venables: Lured to club

Mr Venables was recruited to the club as head coach at the end of last season. During his brief tenure he oversaw a series of transfer deals designed to strengthen the squad, whose value for money have been questioned. One player, Craig Moore, bought from Rangers for £800,000, is being paid £13,000 a week, a figure unheard of apart from at a handful of Premiership clubs.

In his letter Mr McAvoy criticises the way new players were brought to the club, and specifically agents' fees. "The manner by which players were being identified, brought to the club on trial and negotiations with agents handled was completely unprofessional and certainly not following the process laid down by the board," he says. "The club spent more than £1m in fees to agents. I have no doubt we were seen as an easy touch, the new boys and naive."

Last night a spokesman for Mr Venables said: "The current problems facing Crystal Palace have nothing to do with Terry Venables." Mr Goldberg said: "I am not interested at all. Jim McAvoy is just causing trouble."

The disclosures last night caused more anguish among fans. Laurie Dahl, editor of the fanzine *Palace Echo*, said: "Mr Venables is more interested in silver than silverware."

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OVERSEAS PRICES

Australia	6.90 A$	Italy	5.000 L
Austria	40.00 Sch	Luxembourg	60.00 LFr
Belgium	90 BFr	Malta	0.65c
Canada	3.50 C$	Netherlands	5.50 guilder
Cyprus	1.20 C£	Netherlands	6.50 gld
Czech Republic	112 K	Norway	26.00 Nkr
Denmark	15.00 DKr	Portugal	350 Es
Finland	19.00 FM	Singapore	S$8.55
France	16.00 Fr	Spain	325 Pts
Germany	4.50 DM	Sweden	23.00 SKr
Gibraltar	£0.80	Switzerland	5.00 SFr
Greece	700 Dr	Turkey	1,250,000 lira
Hungary	295 forint	USA	$3.50
Israel	12.00 Shk		

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IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

'I found Mary – I feel I must indulge in this Anglo version of the *tutoiement* – to be as I'd anticipated: warm, engaging, quick to laugh at both herself and the world, and absolutely devoid of any self-pity or indulgence.'

Will Self talks to the Government's moral consultant Baroness Warnock

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING AN WILSON, ALAIN DE BOTTON, SIMON SINGH, DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, BRIAN VINER, JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, BERYL BAINBRIDGE AND WALLACE ARNOLD

Steve Bennett celebrating the launch yesterday

Rocket dream takes off over the Mersey

By Maria Breslin

A FORMER toothpaste technician said he believed his team was on course to blast a human being into space after the launch of a 14ft rocket called The Tempest.

Steve Bennett was speaking yesterday after the successful lift-off near the coast of Merseyside of his latest craft

Blustery winds threatened to disrupt take-off at the Altcar Military Range, in Hightown, but at 10.17am the 50lb rocket roared into the skies.

It took about 18 seconds to reach an altitude of around 3,000ft before landing safely by parachute 12 seconds later on the beach by the side of the River Mersey.

After the successful launch Mr Bennett, a father-of-two, from Dukinfield, Greater Manchester, said: "I'm on top of the world. My space dream is no longer pie-in-the-sky.

"I have dreamt about moments like this for all my life and this is what keeps me going through all the difficult times."

His wife, Adrienne, said the team now had its sights on the $10m (£6.25m) prize on offer from the X Prize Foundation in St Louis, Missouri.

She believes Mr Bennett could be the first non-governmental body to launch a person 60 miles into space and said she was sure her husband would want to be in the driving seat.

"He's not the nutter people make him out to be," said Mrs Bennett. "The team is looking at the year 2003. We will have to see who goes up but I suppose it is his ultimate dream."

The success of The Tempest was a far cry from the team's escapades less than 12 months ago when their Starchaser 3 rocket crashed and exploded in a mass of flames on a Dartmoor Military Range.

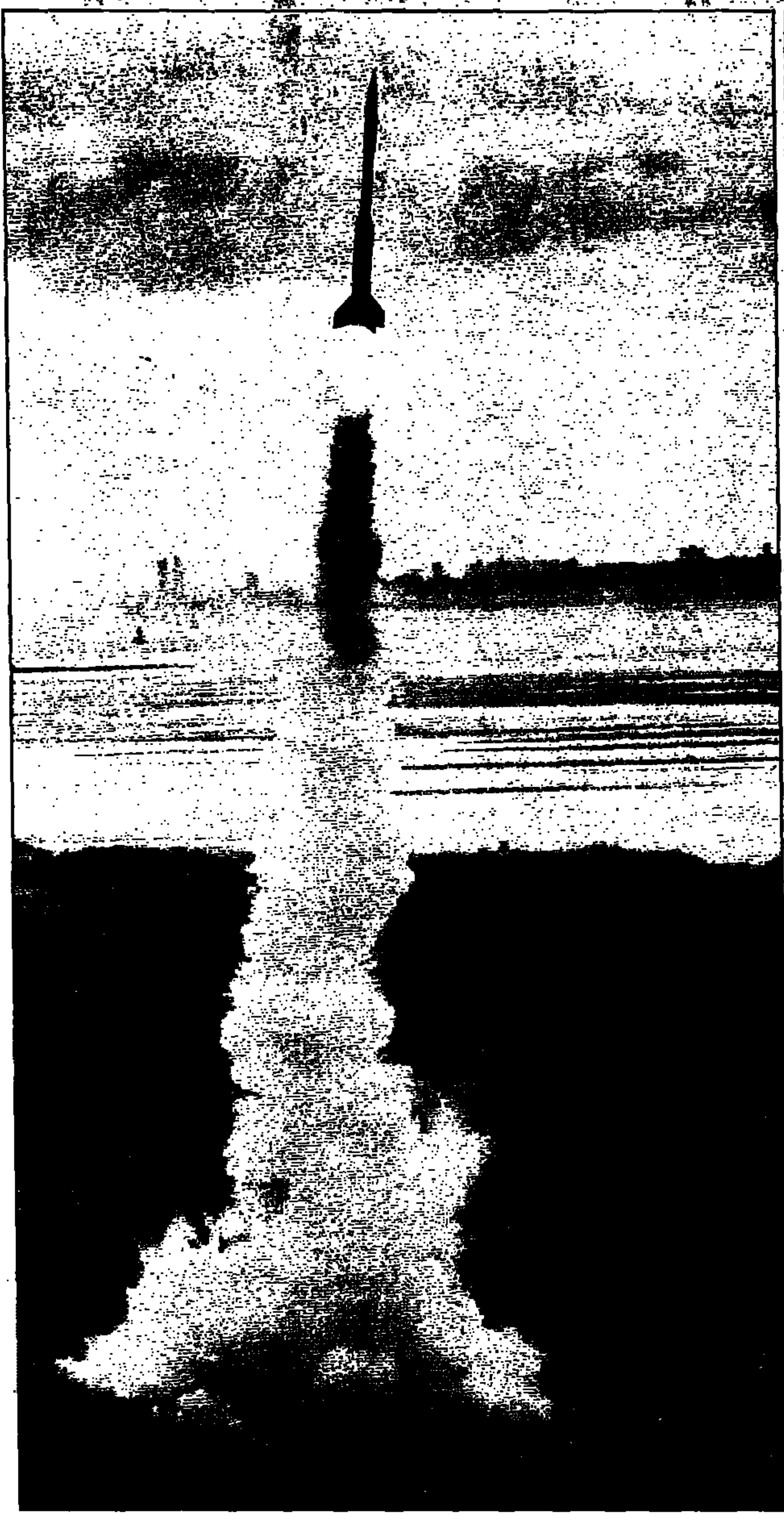
Lessons were learnt from last year's disaster with qualified first aiders and firefighter on stand-by.

Although a replacement for his doomed creation is almost ready to fly, Mr Bennett's aim was to find a suitable launch site and landing area for high-altitude research rockets.

The craft, made of advanced composite materials and filled with three computers and two parachutes, accelerated from 0-700mph in just five seconds.

The assault on the skies cost the team £4,600 with an insurance premium of £600 producing cover of up to £1,000,000.

Mr Bennett is looking for suitable sites for the launch of Starchaser 3a which he hopes to launch later this year.



'Tempest' taking off at Altcar military range, Merseyside, yesterday *Martin Rickett*

Protestant hitmen 'had RUC help'

By David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

THE GHOST of an old controversy – the allegation of security force collusion with loyalist assassins – resurfaced yesterday at the worst possible time for the RUC.

With the future of policing subject to a fundamental review by the former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten, Northern Ireland's police have been concerned to project the best possible image to the world. But in a BBC interview, a senior member of the illegal Ulster Defence Association, Bobby Philpott, has claimed the organisation received large amounts of documents from members of the RUC, Army and Ulster Defence Regiment.

"I was getting that many documents that I didn't know where to put them," Mr Philpott told veteran reporter Peter Taylor in an interview, to be broadcast tomorrow night in the television series *Loyalists*.

The RUC Chief Constable Sir Ronald Flanagan responded by saying that his officers would interview Mr Philpott, who was recently released from prison after serving a sentence for attempted murder.

Sir Ronnie said: "These allegations are not new. They were thoroughly and vigorously investigated by John Stevens, who found no evidence of RUC collusion." Mr Stevens was a senior British police officer who produced a report on collusion some years ago.

Political reactions to the interview varied. Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams called for a full independent inquiry into Mr Philpott's claims, saying he had raised such issues with Tony Blair.

He said: "The issue of collusion is an open secret. Everybody knows it. We have hundreds of people who have been widowed, who have been made orphans, because of this policy of collusion."

The Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party dismissed the claims as "sheer unadulterated nonsense", saying that the RUC had been put "under even greater threat as a result of these senseless and stupid remarks".

David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, and himself a former loyalist prisoner, said Mr Philpott's comments were "something of a Walter Mitty-style statement".

Mr Ervine added: "At best it's a massive exaggeration and I fear it feeds into the republican mentality that loyalism can only exist at the acquiescence of the SAS."

Alex Attwood of the nationalist SDLP said: "I don't think nationalists will draw any great conclusions from what Bobby Philpott says but I do think it places an onus on the Government to respond to the Pat Finucane affair."

This was a reference to the 1989 loyalist killing of a Belfast solicitor, Pat Finucane. Last month more than a thousand local and international lawyers signed a petition calling for an investigation into his death.

'Sell Labour policy' civil servants told

By Andrew Grice
Political Editor

DOWNING STREET has ordered civil servants in all Whitehall departments to make more effort to "sell" the Government's policies to the public.

A memorandum by Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, warns departments that the impact of successful policy announcements is being lost because voters are not being told that the programme is working.

The Opposition claims that Mr Campbell's report provides further evidence that Labour has "politicised" the Whitehall machine and breached the rules on neutral officials carrying out party political tasks. The Tories will protest to Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary.

The edict from Number 10 emerged in the annual review of the performance of Whitehall's press officers carried out by Mike Granatt, head of the Government Information and Communications Service.

Mr Campbell told the review that there had been progress in the past six months, with better strategic planning, closer co-ordination and ministers more willing to appear on television and radio. But he said there was a need for "greater follow through".

The initiative reflects growing fears in the Government that Labour will be judged at the next general election on whether it has delivered its pledges to improve public services.

But critics of Mr Blair's "control freakery" will see the move as an attempt to impose Downing Street's slick media management throughout Whitehall.

Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary who resigned last October, said yesterday he was often kept in the dark by other departments when he was in the Government. He sometimes only learnt of new measures "over my cornflakes" when cabinet colleagues spoke on the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, he said in a speech in Cardiff.

Mr Davies said the Welsh Assembly would allow Wales the freedom to act on devolved matters with no "policy override" from London.

The Opposition will include the report in a dossier to the Cabinet Secretary. It will also protest to ministers over the ousting of press secretaries; the spending of £8m on opinion polling; a 35 per cent increase in the Government's advertising budget to £80m and the setting up of a media-monitoring unit.

A Cabinet Office source insisted there was "nothing untoward" in the edict. An order in council was approved after the 1997 general election allowing Mr Campbell, a political appointment, to ask civil servants to carry out certain tasks.

Uganda survivor returns home

By Gary Finn

HE SHOULD have returned to his family cherishing memories of a trip of lifetime, but yesterday Gary Tappenden came home after surviving the horror of the Uganda massacre.

Mr Tappenden, 28, was reunited with his parents after flying to Gatwick airport at 5.46am on a British Airways flight from Nairobi, Kenya.

He had travelled to Uganda for an adventure holiday with fellow Briton Martin Friend, who became one of the four Britons among the eight Westerners murdered by a band of interahamwe Hutu militia.

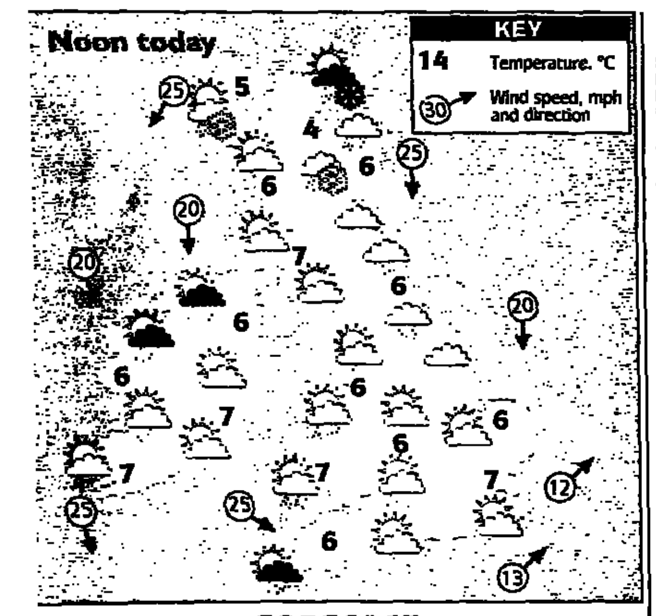
Mr Tappenden and his father Robert, who met him at the airport, arrived at the family home in Hayes, Kent, just before 7am. As they pulled into the driveway his mother, Pearl, came out to greet them.

Robert Tappenden said: "We are all very glad to have Gary home. Gary is very traumatised ... He is obviously relieved and pleased to be home. He is very distraught at the loss of his mate and other friends."

The Britons who died were Steven Roberts, 27, from Edinburgh, Joanne Cotton, 28, from Essex, Mr Friend, 24, from Orpington, Kent, and Mark Lindgren, 23, from St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A three-member team of Scotland Yard detectives arrived in Uganda yesterday to help local investigations into the murder of the eight tourists.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Northern and eastern Scotland will be cold and breezy with a lot of cloud and occasional showers, wintry over the hills. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have a cold wind and scattered blustery showers, but there will be better sunny spells. England and Wales will have early frost, followed by sunshine and showers. Most of the showers will be in the west with hill-snow, although cloud and patchy rain will drift down across parts of northern England and the north Midlands.

London, SE & Cent S England, S Midlands: Any early rain and sleet showers in the eastern fringes will move away to leave a mostly dry day with cloud breaking to allow some sunny intervals. A light south-west wind, turning north-west. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Channel Is, SW England, S Wales: Rather cold with sunny spells and showers. Most of the showers will be over coasts and hills exposed to the moderate north-west wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

N Wales, NW England, N Midlands, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A bright start with sunny spells, but turning more cloudy with a few showers breaking out. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F).

NE England, E & Cent N England, E Anglia: Mostly cloudy and chilly with occasional rain and hill-sleet, especially near the coasts. A moderate north wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

Edinburgh, Aberdeen, SE & NE Scotland, N Isles: Cold with a lot of cloud and showers, wintry over the hills. A brisk north wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F).

Glasgow, SW & NW Scotland, W Isles, N Ireland: A cold but bright day with sunny spells and a few rain, hail or sleet showers, mostly near north-facing coasts. A brisk north wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F).

OUTLOOK

Tomorrow will be rather cold again with showers in many eastern counties, but the west will be quite bright. On Monday, rain and strong winds will push slowly northwards across southern Britain, but Scotland will be mostly dry and cold

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001.
Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 23rd April.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.
Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd. Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks inbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June.
Co.Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Dunmurray. Roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 1st August.
Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shardlow Road Roundabout, East of Alvaston. Contraflow for work on new A50. Until 15th October.
AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	6.09pm	to	7.00am
Birmingham	5.55pm	to	6.41am
Bristol	5.59pm	to	6.43am
Glasgow	6.01pm	to	6.54am
London	5.49pm	to	6.34am
Manchester	5.55pm	to	6.44am
Newcastle	5.51pm	to	6.43am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	9.35	12.9	9.51	12.5
Cork	8.01	4.2	8.17	4.2
Devonport	7.57	5.3	8.15	5.1
Dover	1.15	6.6	1.29	6.3
Dun Laoghaire	1.35	3.8	1.59	4.0
Falmouth	7.28	5.1	7.46	4.9
Greenock	3.02	3.2	2.56	3.5
Harwich	2.03	3.9	2.22	3.7
Holyhead	12.31	5.3	12.46	5.4
Hull (Albert Dk)	8.42	8.4	8.52	8.6
Kings Lynn	8.47	6.3	8.48	6.6
Leith	5.01	5.2	5.22	5.3
Liverpool	1.24	9.0	1.39	9.0
Milford Haven	8.36	6.7	8.52	6.4
Newquay	7.29	6.7	7.45	6.5
Portland	9.18	1.8	9.34	1.7
Portsmouth	1.33	4.5	1.43	4.4
Pwllheli	10.27	4.7	10.43	4.5
Scarborough	6.31	5.4	6.41	5.5
Wick	1.34	3.5	1.48	3.4

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

	NO_2	SO_2
London	Moderate	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06.36
Sun sets: 17.49
Moon rises: 22.24
Moon sets: 08.32
Last quarter: 10th March

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial **0891 5009** followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Isles of Scilly 7C (45F)
Coldest (day): Altnaharra 3C (37F)
Wettest: Brotton 18.0 mm
Sunniest: Dundrum 3.5 hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

	Sun hrs	Rain mm	Max °C	Max °F
Aberdeen	0.3	5.8	5	41
Anglesey	0	7.1	6	43
Aviemore	1.7	11.2	3	37
Belfast	1.6	0.5	7	45
Birmingham	1.4	3.0	6	43
Bournemouth	1.5	1.8	9	48
Bristol	1.3	2.3	9	48
Buxton	1.0	1.8	4	39
Cardiff	1.2	0.5	9	48
Clacton	1.9	0.5	7	45
Cromer	1.9	1.5	6	43
Edinburgh	0.5	1.5	6	43
Exmouth	2.1	3.8	7	45
Fishguard	0.4	8.6	5	41
Folkestone	1.3	8.4	8	46
Glasgow	0.3	3.6	7	45
Hastings	0.4	12.2	9	48
Hove	0	2.0	8	46
Isle-of-man	0.8	4.6	6	43
Isle-of-wight	-	2.0	7	45
Jersey	3.2	15.2	9	48
Kendal	0	2.3	6	44
Leeds	1.3	6.6	6	43
Lerwick	7.5	1.0	4	39
Littlehampton	0.3	3.0	7	45
London	0.6	2.8	8	46
Lowestoft	2.2	1.0	8	46
Manchester	0.7	1.8	6	43
Margate	0	3.0	7	45
Morecambe	1.5	3.8	6	43
Newcastle	0.1	25.9	5	41
Newquay	3.0	6.1	7	45
Norwich	0.9	0.3	7	45
Oxford	2.6	2.8	7	45
Ross-on-wye	2.6	1.8	7	45
Salcombe	-	-	-	-
Scarborough	-	-	-	-
Shrewsbury	1.5	0.5	6	43
Southend	1.4	0.8	6	43
Southport	-	6.6	7	45
Stornoway	4.8	1.8	6	43
Swanage	1.3	4.3	8	46
Tenby	0.8	7.6	6	43
Torquay	2.5	2.0	9	48
Weston-s-mare	-	-	-	-
Weymouth	1.3	9.4	7	45

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Thursday: Information by PA WeatherCentre

RAIN OR SHINE...

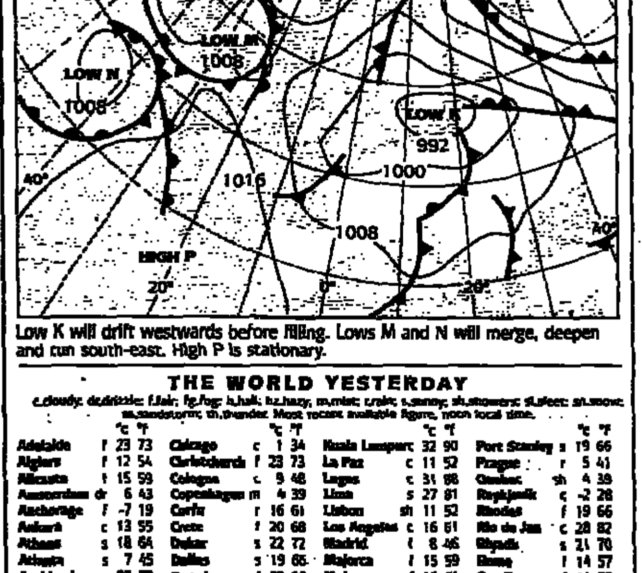
UKRAINE, BATTERED by floods last year, was hit by further disaster yesterday when melting snows and heavy rain left more than 230 homes flooded.

Officials in the western Ukrainian region of Zakarpattia issued flood warnings as river levels continued to rise and also warned that there was an increased risk of avalanches on the region's mountain slopes. Floods killed 17 people and destroyed more than 2,000 houses last autumn.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



Low K will drift westwards before filling. Lows M and N will merge, deepen and run south-east. High P is stationary.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

c,cloudy; dr,drizzle; f,fair; fg,fog; h,hail; hz,hazy; m,mist; r,rain; s,sunny; sh,showers; sl,sleet; sn,snow; ss,sandstorm; th,thunder. Most recent available figure, noon local time.

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Adelaide	f	23	73	Chicago	c	1	34	Kuala Lumpur		32	90	Port Stanley	s	19	66
Algiers	f	12	54	Christchurch	f	23	73	La Paz	c	11	52	Prague	r	5	41
Alicante	f	15	59	Cologne	c	9	48	Lagos	c	31	88	Quebec	sh	4	39
Amsterdam	dr	6	43	Copenhagen	m	4	39	Lima	s	27	81	Reykjavik	c	-2	28
Anchorage	f	-7	19	Corfu	r	16	61	Lisbon	sh	11	52	Rhodes	f	19	66
Ankara	c	13	55	Crete	f	20	68	Los Angeles	c	16	61	Rio de Jan	c	28	82
Athens	s	18	64	Dakar	s	22	72	Madrid	f	8	46	Riyadh	s	21	70
Atlanta	s	7	45	Dallas	s	19	66	Majorca	f	15	59	Rome	f	14	57
Auckland	c	23	73	Darwin	f	32	90	Malaga	f	16	61	San Fran	f	11	52
Bahrain	f	24	75	Dubai	c	22	72	Malta	s	15	59	Santiago	s	24	75
Bangkok	c	33	91	Dublin	f	6	43	Manila	f	31	88	Seoul	s	10	50
Barbados	f	28	82	Edmonton	c	-11	12	Mecca	s	32	90	Seychelles	s	30	86
Barcelona	f	14	57	Faro	c	13	55	Melbourne	c	21	70	Shanghai	s	19	66
Beirut	c	19	66	Florence	f	10	50	Mexico City	f	21	70	Singapore	c	31	88
Belgrade	c	17	63	Frankfurt	c	8	46	Miami	s	19	66	St Pet'burg	s	0	32
Berlin	r	6	43	Funchal	sh	16	61	Milan	f	11	52	Stockholm	d	2	36
Bermuda	sh	22	72	Geneva	sn	5	41	Mombasa	f	33	91	Sydney	c	26	79
Biarritz	r	6	43	Gibraltar	f	15	59	Montreal	sh	8	46	Tel Aviv	s	23	73
Bogota	c	18	64	Hanoi	c	24	75	Moscow	r	1	34	Tenerife	f	18	64
Bombay	s	33	91	Harare	f	25	77	Munich	r	2	36	Tokyo	c	15	59
Bordeaux	sh	9	48	Helsinki	c	-3	27	Nairobi	f	27	81	Toronto	f	-3	27
Boston	c	7	45	Hong Kong	s	25	77	Naples	f	15	59	Tunis	f	17	63
Brisbane	s	29	84	Honolulu	c	28	82	Nassau	s	24	75	Ulan Ude	c	-11	12
Brussels	r	5	41	Istanbul	c	15	59	New Delhi	f	27	81	Valencia	s	15	59
Bucharest	c	17	63	Jakarta	c	31	88	New Orleans	s	16	61	Vancouver	c	8	46
Budapest	r	13	55	Jeddah	s	33	91	New York	c	2	36	Venice	c	9	48
Buenos Aires	f	29	84	Jerusalem	f	19	66	Nice	c	14	57	Vienna	r	9	48
Cairo	s	23	73	Johannesburg	s	27	81	Nicosia	c	21	70	Warsaw	c	14	57
Calgary	sn	-10	14	Karachi	f	30	86	Oslo	sn	-1	30	Washington	c	6	43
Cape Town	c	25	77	Kathmandu	f	27	81	Paris	c	7	45	Wellington	c	21	70
Caracas	f	27	81	Kiev	m	4	39	Peking	s	5	41	Zagreb	-		
Casablanca	c	14	57	Kingston	f	29	84	Perth	f	26	79	Zurich	sh	4	39

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Watch out Lloyd Webber, here comes Broadway's finest – and he's after you

Frank Wildhorn, famous over there but unknown over here, plans to bring one of his Lloyd Webber-style musicals to London *Marty Reichenthal/AP*

TWO OF A KIND

Lloyd Webber with his muse, Sarah Brightman

Custom-built theatres
Lloyd Webber: A warning for Wildhorn here. Lord Lloyd-Webber had three custom-built theatres for his shows in Europe. But audiences for the same show are finite. Two have gone bust.
Wildhorn: Still thinks it worth a try. A theatre has been custom-built in Bremen, Germany, for the German version of *Jekyll & Hyde*. It will show *Jekyll & Hyde* and only *Jekyll & Hyde* in perpetuity.

The muse is the wife
Lloyd Webber: His second wife Sarah Brightman starred in *Phantom of the Opera* and went on to record and tour his music. He met her when she was a mere chorus kitten on his show *Cats*.
Wildhorn: He fashions shows around his wife, Linda Eder, a soprano whom he met shortly after she won the grand prize on *Star Search* on American TV in 1988.

Jesus started me off
Lloyd Webber: His first international hit was *Jesus Christ Superstar* which he wrote with Tim Rice.
Wildhorn: He wrote his first musical, *Christopher*, after seeing the movie of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He describes *Christopher* as "sort of *Jesus Christ Superstar* part six from a zen Buddhist point of view".

Music to campaign by
Lloyd Webber: He was ennobled by John Major and wrote the music for one of the Conservative Party campaigns.
Wildhorn: His song 'This is the moment' from *Jekyll and Hyde* became President Clinton's theme during his second nomination at the Democrat national convention.

Damn the critics
Lloyd Webber: Hardly. He cares obsessively about what critics think of his shows and has felt in the past that he has not received the credit in the UK that he has abroad.
Wildhorn: Couldn't care less. Says: "There are all these writers who are the intelligentsia's favourites but they have no clue what a hit song is."

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE CRITICS sneer at him; the public adore him. Audiences go in droves to his musicals, though the chattering classes claim never to have seen one. A theatre has been built in Europe just to accommodate one of his shows; and his wife sang many of his best known songs. He is – Frank Wildhorn.

It's a curriculum vitae that seems to scream Andrew Lloyd Webber. And Mr Wildhorn has a remarkable number of traits in common with Britain's own populist composer. But the American, whose name is virtually unknown over here, is now set to become Lord Lloyd-Webber's biggest rival.

He said yesterday he is planning to bring one of his musicals to London next year.

Yesterday, *The Wall Street Journal* described 40-year-old Wildhorn as "a New York born and bred Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber". Later this month, he will have three musicals playing simultaneously on Broadway: a new one, *The Civil War*, will join the current hits *Jekyll & Hyde* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* – all with his trademark pop ballads. In two years, *Jekyll* has grossed $70m (£44m); and, in 18 months, *Pimpernel* has brought in over $30m.

Last week, a custom-built theatre opened in Bremen, Germany, for the German version of *Jekyll*.

Despite his popular success, Wildhorn has suffered from a critical sniffiness that Lord Lloyd-Webber knows all too well. One New York reviewer described *The Scarlet Pimpernel* as "galumphing and dunder-headed". Another said *Jekyll* was "leaden".

Lord Lloyd-Webber may be rubbing his eyes at some of the other reflections of his life. Lloyd Webber cast his second wife, Sarah Brightman, as the female lead in *Phantom of the Opera*; Wildhorn builds shows around his singer wife, Linda Eder.

Both composers started their own companies to present their products: Lloyd Webber created The Really Useful Group, Wildhorn runs his own record label – Atlantic Theatre. His six-album *oeuvre* has sold a million units.

Wildhorn's song "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" went to the top of the US charts for Whitney Houston. Lloyd Webber's "No Matter What" topped the British charts for Boyzone.

Both composers write musicals based on classic stories. Both write the music for their songs, and work with a number of lyricists. Both are notable control freaks.

Freddie Gershon, chairman of Music Theater International in America, which licenses rights to musicals, said: "No composer since Andrew Lloyd Webber has taken such a leading role in controlling how his musicals get made."

He said of Wildhorn: "He is unbelievably tenacious. Part of it is ego, part of it is self-esteem, but for the world to make fun of you, and to believe that people will keep coming, no matter what the critics say, is an amazing thing."

Wildhorn who claims critics "have no clue what a hit song is" uses the Internet and has devoted fans who call themselves "Jekkies" or "Pimpies" monitoring news of his shows on a dozen websites.

Wildhorn plans to bring his shows to London. He said yesterday: "Talks are proceeding. *Jekyll and Hyde* and *Pimpernel* are made for London. Of course, I want to go there. Are you kidding?" He added that he had met Lloyd Webber, but didn't agree with the comparisons. "I'm a self-taught musician. I'm a blue-collar pop song writer," he said. "But of course I'm a fan. I'm a fan of anyone who writes melodies."

Lord Lloyd-Webber was not available yesterday to comment on the rival soon to challenge him on his own patch.

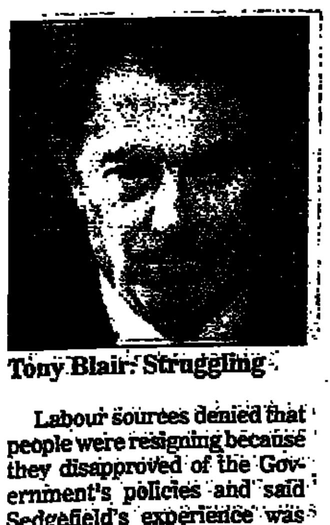
When Wildhorn does bring *Jekyll* to London next year, he will bypass the usual channels in marketing his shows. On Broadway, he does not advertise in *The New York Times*, putting ads for his shows direct on to cable networks. He also releases his show tunes on albums well before the opening of the shows "to put the music in the public consciousness".

Both Wildhorn and Lloyd Webber have obsessive followers of their shows. In Britain one fan of *Phantom* has changed her name to the name of the heroine and seen the show dozens of times. In New York, Salvatore Italiano, a Brooklyn music promoter for heavy metal bands, has seen *Jekyll* 31 times. "I came because I saw the television commercial," he says. The *Jekyll* ad was a 30-second spot featuring Wildhorn's actress wife dressed in a cleavage-revealing bodice.

Even before the opening of *The Civil War*, Wildhorn has started work on his next musical. It is called *Havana*, and the female lead is Mrs Wildhorn.

Barbecue Man is defecting from Blair's local party

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor



Tony Blair: Struggling

LABOUR PARTY membership is falling in Tony Blair's back yard. His Sedgefield constituency party, which attracted more than 2,000 members after replacing boring meetings with barbecues, is struggling to persuade many of them to renew their subscriptions.

Officials in Labour's north-east region say that up to one-third of the members in Mr Blair's constituency could find their membership has lapsed unless they pay their £15 annual fee soon. In an attempt to spare his blushes, a door-to-door recruitment blitz is to be launched urgently.

Labour sources denied that people were resigning because they disapproved of the Government's policies and said Sedgefield's experience was repeated across the country.

"The main problem is apathy. People think they did their bit by getting rid of the Tories," one official said.

The fall in Sedgefield's membership is an embarrassment because, after Mr Blair became the local MP in 1983, it became the new model constituency party. Membership soared from 600 to more than 2,000 after long-winded debates about socialism were replaced by social events. Phil Wilson, the membership secretary, was so successful that he was promoted to national headquarters.

John Burton, Mr Blair's constituency agent and a close ally, said yesterday that membership had dropped to 1,800, but said this was partly due to boundary changes, which took effect at the 1997 general election. He was confident that "99 per cent" of the membership would renew their subscriptions. "We are guilty of resting on our laurels; we have got to get out fingers out," he said. "But there has been no mass exodus. When you knock on doors, people renew and that is what we must now do."

Labour's national membership dropped from 405,200 to 391,700 in the 12 months to December, although retention had risen. Officials say the biggest loss is caused by members moving house, and are redoubling their efforts to persuade people to pay by direct debit. The proportion doing so rose from 34 per cent to 39 per cent last year.

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Oxbridge 'scares' away state pupils

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

STATE SCHOOL pupils are intimidated by the selection process at Cambridge and Oxford, the universities admitted yesterday.

A survey of more than 2,000 students at state schools and colleges showed that four out of ten were put off by the interview system operated by both universities. Nearly two-thirds of teachers questioned in the survey carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research and commissioned by Oxford and Cambridge thought interviews discouraged their students from applying.

More than a third thought their pupils found extra tests given at Oxbridge off-putting.

Last year, a state school pupil who applied to Trinity College, Cambridge, said that she was reduced to tears in an interview after a don mocked her accent and her intellect.

Both universities are trying hard to attract more state school pupils and yesterday hosted a conference for 1,000 sixth-form and college students at Wembley, north London.

Students who apply to Cambridge may have to face three or more interviews at a single college and those who fail to win a place at their first-choice college will be interviewed again. For some subjects, a written test is also required.

Susan Stobbs, Cambridge University's director of admissions, said: "It is clear that our selection process is intimidating. We have produced a new booklet on interviews which relates some current students' experiences and gives advice from admissions tutors. We remain convinced that interviews are the right way to select the best students, but we clearly need to demystify the whole process."

Guidelines on how to interview students are issued to dons at both universities.

Oxford said it believed interviews enabled tutors to differentiate between very able candidates. Dr Colin Lucas, the vice-chancellor, said: "We fully recognise that teachers and students have identified the interview as a potential deterrent. We intend to unveil measures aimed at making it more transparent and less intimidating."

Despite repeated efforts by Oxford and Cambridge to dispel their "Brideshead" image, 47 per cent of pupils said they feared they would not fit in socially. Almost all the teachers questioned thought worries about elitism had at some time discouraged their students from applying. Teachers were more likely to encourage bright boys than bright girls to apply to Oxbridge.

Dr Lucas said: "Sadly, many of the perceptions revealed about Oxford and Cambridge are out of date and plain wrong. For example, we have a varied social mix and we do not cost more. We are planning fresh measures to combat such misconceptions, and, as the survey confirms, it is with teachers that we must do much of this work."

Students were attracted to Oxbridge because of the type of courses, the quality of the degrees, the universities' reputation and the tutorial methods.

Both universities are running a series of initiatives to attract more state school candidates, including summer schools for pupils. Cambridge is running a poster campaign and Oxford is inviting state school teachers to spend a week at the university.

Children at Grange School in Stoke-on-Trent are being taught time-honoured playground games *Andrew Fox*

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Old games are more than child's play

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

THE BOYS and girls go out to play at Grange Primary School in Stoke-on-Trent. They chant "Ring a Ring O'Roses" and skip across the hopscotch squares like generations of schoolchildren before them.

But they have not picked up the little games and rhymes on street corners during lazy summer afternoons. They are taught the traditional pastimes by staff keen to keep the old games alive. The school is one of hundreds teaching pupils once-familiar playground games to stop the decline of Britain's childhood heritage.

Four years ago, the 500-pupil school ran training sessions for staff to show them how to pass on playground games and activities to the children. Now the games that have entertained generations are part of the daily landscape... "The infants are encouraged to play together and are shown the rules of simple games," said Grange's head, Nigel Johnson. "The games are there to make sure children do not idly waste away their time. Some children might just want to sit down, which is fine, but rather than having everybody chasing around, it's good to have them playing together."

Research published last year by the London University Institute of Education found children were losing some of the traditional games that keep them occupied during the long lunch hour. Earlier this week Cheynes Infant School in Luton banned pupils from playing "kiss chase", fearing an "exchange of bodily fluids".

The London University study, by Dr Peter Blatchford, surveyed 1,500 schools and found 56 per cent of primaries and 44 per cent of secondaries had cut break times, mainly by removing afternoon breaks and shortening lunch hours. Dr Blatchford found teachers complaining that children were idling in playgrounds or causing disruption. But teachers insist that traditional games are still alive and kicking. Yo-yos, which date back to 400BC, took playgrounds by storm last year and tiddlywink-style Pogs were an essential addition to the school rucksack in 1995.

At Northwold Primary School in Stoke Newington, north London, the deputy head, Surinder Dhingra, brought in consultants to teach new games, songs and rhymes to the children and teaching assistants. Every year children are appointed "playground friends" to pass on the games to the school's 420 pupils.

The head, Graham West, said: "One of the things arising about two years ago was children getting into confrontations with other pupils during playtimes. I have found, working with children, that these sort of rhymes and songs have gone out of their vocabulary. They will practise pop songs, but creative play and working together has gone, perhaps because we don't allow them to play in the street and because they watch television."

At Grange primary, teachers believe games are essential. Mr Johnson said: "When they get outside they can run around and let off steam, but they need to know how to do it sensibly.

"They are started off on 'Ring a Ring O'Roses' and hopscotch in groups. There's no British Bulldog, though. If you have two lines of children charging at each other it's a recipe for disaster."

IN BRIEF

Court upholds gay sex sentence

ONE OF the "Bolton Seven" – a group of men convicted of taking part in gay sex parties captured on home video – had his sentence upheld today by the Court of Appeal. Terry Connell, 56, whose appeal against his sentence of nine months imprisonment suspended for two years was heard in London, was convicted a year ago. He was sentenced at Bolton Crown Court in February 1998 after a jury found him guilty of one offence of gross indecency.

Conviction fears over ID parades

ALMOST 20 CONVICTIONS in a police force's area may be unsafe because of poor soundproofing in a special suite for identity parades. Nottinghamshire Police confirmed inadequate soundproofing at Carlton police station might have meant witnesses could overhear conversations in the gallery area where line-ups were held.

Ashok Kumar MP

An article on 27 February stated that Ashok Kumar, MP for Middlesborough South and East Cleveland, received a gift of a watch from the Amir of Bahrain and had not declared it in the Commons Register of Members' Interests. Dr Kumar did register the gift, which he has donated to Oxfam, but the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards omitted to record it in the published register.

FERGAL KEANE

To travel through Freetown is to enter a different universe

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 3

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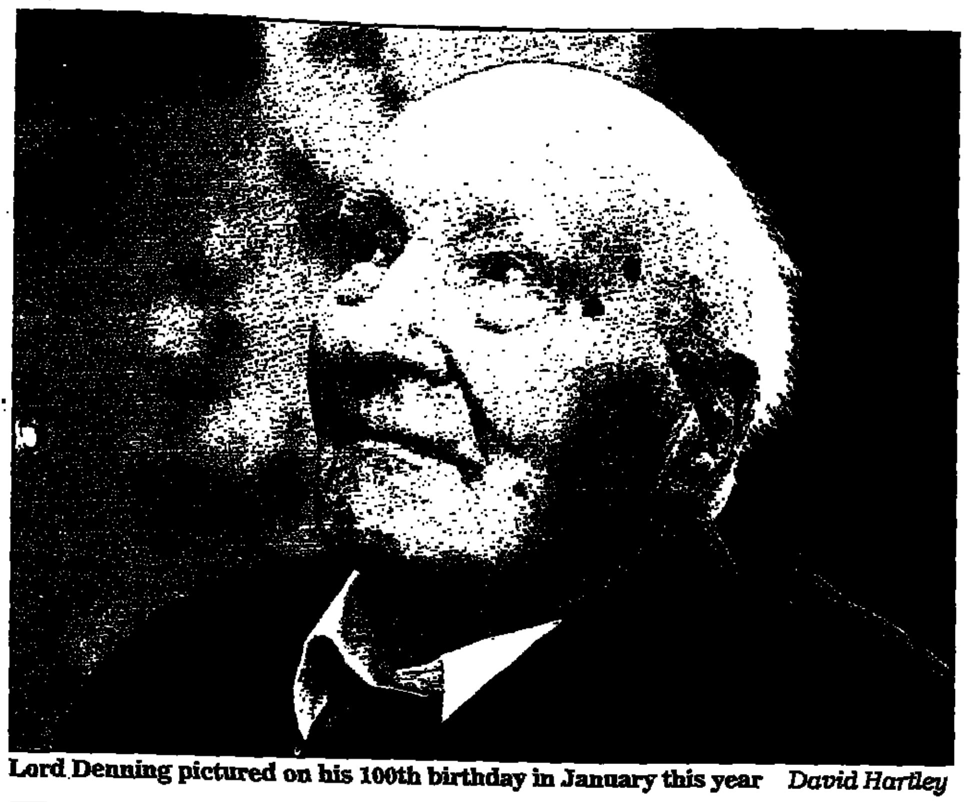


Lord Denning pictured on his 100th birthday in January this year *David Hartley*

Lord Denning, the century's greatest judge, dies at 100

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE "PEOPLE'S JUDGE", Lord Denning, who died yesterday at the age of 100, was remembered as the most famous and influential judicial figure of the century.

The often-controversial former Master of the Rolls died "peacefully" in the early hours of the morning at the Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester, six weeks after his birthday. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who appeared before the judge as a fledgling barrister in the early Eighties, said yesterday that Lord Denning was "one of the great men of his age.

"His judgments were a model of lucidity. He was prepared to use the law for its true purpose – in the interests of fairness and justice. He had a tremendous feel for ordinary people," Mr Blair said.

His views were echoed by the former prime minister Baroness Thatcher, who said: "Lord Denning was probably the greatest English judge of modern times. He combined a love of liberty with a passion for justice. His life and work will provide inspiration for generations to come."

Often controversial, Lord Denning never rose beyond Master of the Rolls, the third highest legal appointment after the Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Chancellor, but his impact on the law was unrivalled during his lifetime.

Alfred Thompson "Tom" Denning, a draper's son, was born in Whitchurch, Hampshire, in January 1899. He was educated at Andover Grammar School, before going to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he gained a triple first.

After a year teaching at Winchester he decided on a career at the Bar – "because I was ambitious and saw it as the best way to advancement".

He was a judge by 45 and in the Court of Appeal by the exceptionally young age of 49. But he came to prominence as the head of the inquiry into the Profumo political scandal in 1963 and for making a series of popular judgments including becoming the first judge to treat co-habiting couples as though they were married.

Lord Denning also ruled that a wife in a divorce case was entitled to an equal share of her husband's wealth and made the judgment that allowed Sir Freddie Laker the right to compete with British Airways, paving the way for cheap transatlantic flights.

But in later life, the "voice of common-sense" began to sound increasingly reactionary.

Lord Denning said he had no qualms about donning the black cap to pass a death sentence and he mused that the Guildford Four were "probably guilty" and said: "We shouldn't have all these campaigns to get the Birmingham Six released if they'd been hanged. They'd have been forgotten and the whole community would have been satisfied."

He retired in 1982 after a storm of controversy about his book, *What Next in the Law*, in which he suggested that some immigrants might not be suitable to serve on juries.

After his retirement Lord Denning returned to his home village of Whitchurch, living with his wife in a magnificent Regency house set amid 35 acres. When he celebrated his 100th birthday in January, more than 170 lawyers and judges gathered at the University of Buckingham to pay tribute to his achievements.

Yesterday, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said: "The name Denning was a byword for the law itself. His judgments were models of simple English which ordinary people understood.

"He had huge intellect and reforming imagination in equal measures, and in court, he never failed to be an object lesson in judicial courtesy."

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, was equally laudatory.

"Lord Denning was the best-known and best-loved judge of this, or perhaps any, generation," Lord Bingham said. "He was a legend in his own lifetime. His memory will be cherished by his countless friends on the Bench, at the Bar and among the wider public throughout the Commonwealth."

Leading article, Review page 3. Obituary, Review page 10

The ambitious draper's son saw law as 'the best way of advancement' *Hulton Getty*

WISDOM FROM ALL HIS YEARS ON THE BENCH

On family values: "There is a prevailing philosophy of 'anything goes' and the strength of family life is being eroded."

On honesty: "A lot of people have not got the same standards of conduct – uprightness or honesty – as they had in the past."

On religion: "Without religion, no morality; without morality, no law."

On divorce: "The divorce court should not penalise anyone and a wife should be entitled to an equal share of her husband's wealth."

On the armed forces: "A disabled former serviceman should not have to prove he was injured in the services to win the right to a pension."

On choosing a career in law: "Because I was ambitious and saw it as the best way to advancement."

On his role in the 1960s Profumo inquiry: "I have had to be detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge and it has been difficult to combine them."

On police: The idea of officers lying about their treatment of the Birmingham Six was an "appalling vista".

On the Birmingham Six: "We shouldn't have all these campaigns to get the Birmingham Six released if they'd been hanged. They'd have been forgotten and the whole community would have been satisfied."

On industrial action at the time of the miners' strike: "A malaise – a disease – affecting our country today".

On remaining on the bench into his eighties: "I have all the Christian virtues – except resignation."

On compulsory retirement of judges: "You can do good work after 75. I think I gave some of my judgments of greatest value after 75."

On long life: "By eating plain English food. I don't want any of that French stuff."

On co-habiting: "Couples who live together should be treated in the same way as those who are married."

Infection may lead to heart disease

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

CHRONIC DISEASES blamed on faulty genes or a slothful lifestyle may be triggered by infectious agents that can be passed around like colds or flu, scientists believe.

Evidence is growing that infection may play a role in a host of chronic conditions including heart disease, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, kidney stones and inflammatory bowel disease. The findings could have important implications for public health and point to new ways of protecting individuals at risk by vaccination or treatment with antibiotics or other drugs.

In heart disease, scientists believe that infection may be the missing link that can explain why the traditional risk factors of smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol cannot account for all variations in the incidence of the disease.

Research is pointing to the role of the bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, which is related to the sexually transmitted infection *Chlamydia trachomatis*, and affects the lungs.

Professor Jonathan Cohen, head of infectious diseases and bacteriology at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith hospital, London, said: "The evidence linking chlamydia with heart disease is intriguing. Studies have shown an association between coronary heart disease and chlamydia; the organism has been found in the plaques deposited in arteries and two studies have indicated that antibiotics may be effective against it. The findings ... lend support to the idea that micro-organisms might play a part in heart disease."

Even if true, this would not let patients off the hook of making lifestyle changes to reduce their risk. But in the case of heart disease even a modest contribution by bacteria could, if attacked, save tens of thousands of lives worldwide.

Enthusiasm for research into infectious causes of chronic disease was fired a decade ago when evidence emerged that stomach ulcers were caused not by excess acid but by the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*. Ulcers were thought to be the result of a high-pressure lifestyle fuelled by an unhealthy diet and the idea that they might be caused by bacteria was greeted with disbelief. Today, long-term treatment with acid-blocking medicines such as Zantac, once the world's biggest-selling drug, has been replaced by a two-week antibiotic cocktail, which can cure the condition.

Multiple sclerosis, the neurological disease that affects 70,000 people in the UK, is known to occur in geographical clusters, suggesting an infectious agent.

Kidney stones are known to be the product of chronic infection of the urinary tract and Alzheimer's disease has also been associated with various micro-organisms over the years but less strongly than in the case of heart disease. The amyloid plaques (tangles of nerve fibres) in the brain that are characteristic of Alzheimer's may be the result of chronic infection.

Inflammatory bowel disease is known to be linked with infection by *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, a bacterium that causes Jern's disease in cattle and is related to tuberculosis in humans.

Professor Cohen said vaccines against chronic disease were a possibility but it would be years before they were a reality. "It is not inconceivable but it is not just around the corner."

TV fakes row hits 'Right to Reply'

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

DOUBTS OVER the truthfulness of factual television programmes were highlighted again yesterday when the viewers' response programme *Right to Reply* was accused of trying to manufacture outrage.

A freelance journalist claims he was called by a researcher on the Channel 4 programme and encouraged to watch C4's interview with Monica Lewinsky so he could come on the programme and object to it.

"They were presenting me with the opportunity to get on the telly if I was prepared to talk about the Monica Lewinsky interview," claims Nick Martin-Clark. "They said, 'You've called us before about something', but they had no idea what I called about before and I had certainly never called about ... the Monica story.

"She was definitely trying to encourage me to watch it and said she'd be waiting by the phone to know what I thought."

However Alice Feinstein, the researcher who called Mr Martin-Clark, said she had done nothing wrong. "We are a viewer-led programme, but we will sometimes call back people who have called us in the past. If they don't hold an opinion they won't come on. ... I didn't just pick him from out of nowhere. I asked him what he thought about it because you have to get the background on people's opinions.

"We have covered the issues of fakes on television at length and so have to be whiter than white ourselves."

Union's staff in bullying walk-out

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

STAFF AT the headquarters of one of the country's biggest unions are believed to have voted overwhelmingly to walk out over alleged bullying by senior officials.

The vote is a considerable embarrassment to John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, who has conducted a high-profile campaign in favour of partnership at the workplace and against macho management.

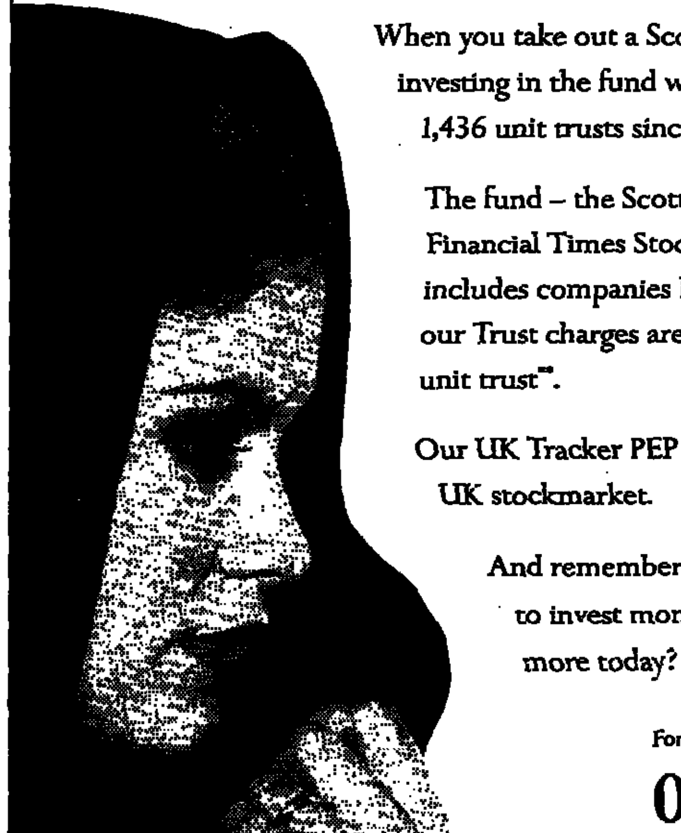
Mr Edmonds is among a senior group of TUC representatives who regularly visit Downing Street to make representations on behalf of the British workers.

The Independent understands that employees of the GMB, who are also members of the union, have voted by nearly four to one to take industrial action, and a smaller group who belong to the Manufacturing Science Finance union are expected to follow suit.

The results of both ballots are due to be released next week amid what one union source described as a "climate of fear".

In addition to allegations of bullying and intimidation, staff morale has been undermined by a restructuring scheme, which many of them oppose. A substantial proportion of headquarters staff are believed to have registered interest in a severance scheme.

There have also been complaints against senior staff at union offices in the West Midlands.



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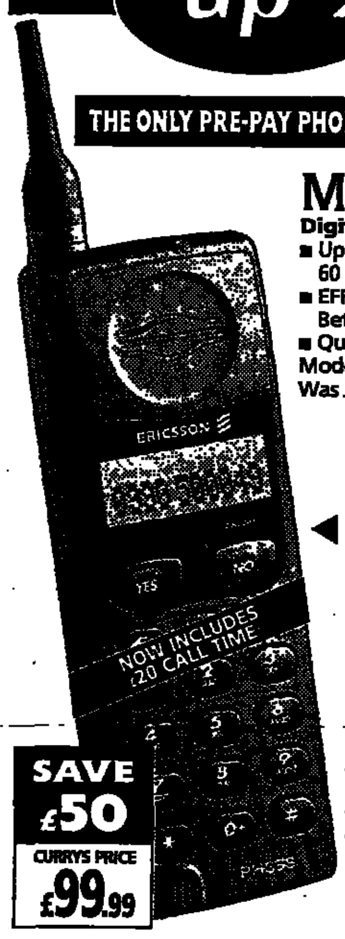

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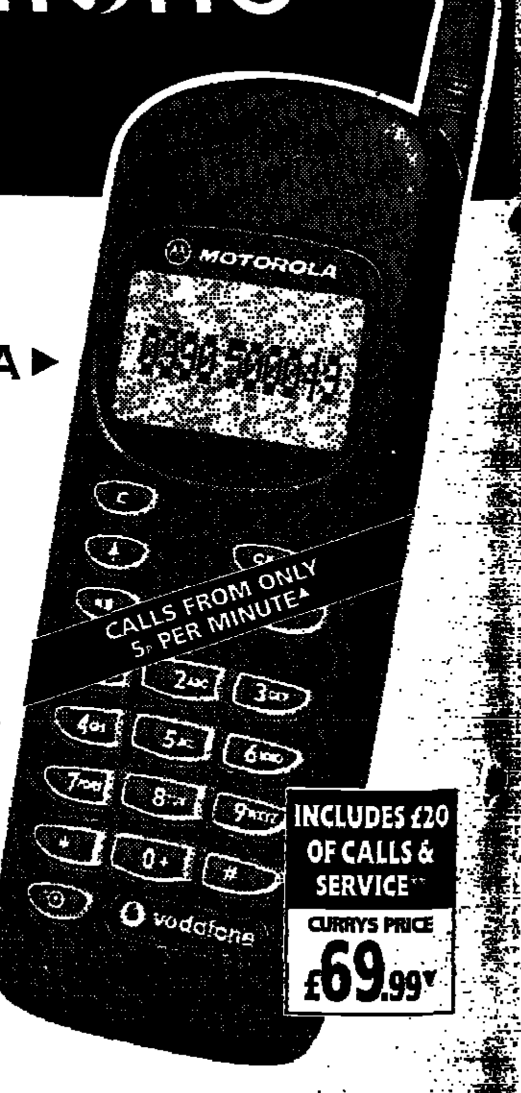

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Are middle-of-the-night shoppers mad?

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'We can't stand all those other people': 12.30am at Tesco, Bromley-by-Bow, and Jaz and Ian total up everything they buy with their calculator *Magali Delporte*

THERE SEEMS to be a general belief out there that people who go to the supermarket in the dead of night are strange. "They are all loonies," said a friend knowingly.

But I do not agree. Perhaps this is because I have been known to fill a trolley or two of my own in the wee hours. But it is also because it just makes sense to go the supermarket when all those other people aren't there. You know who I mean. The ones who have screaming children and nagging spouses. The ones who think trolley rage is normal. The ones who wreck the banana bunches without even realising what they are doing.

What a relief, then, to pull up in front of Tesco at Bromley-by-Bow in the East End of London in the middle of the night. I use the term "pull up" loosely, because I actually got there by driving the wrong way up a one-way street. Pure freedom, you see: my car was the only thing on the road so it just did not matter.

I park across various lines in an empty car park and walk into the store. Everyone seems pretty normal – but then at midnight standards drop. It was time to do some research. Just who are the late-night shoppers? Are they really weirdos?

I find two men who do not think it strange that I want to ask them all sorts of personal questions. They say they have been smoking "exotic substances" while watching the football and got the munchies. Terry is clutching a package of cheese rolls, while Derek has eight hot cross buns, three Cornish pasties and a Cellophaned slab of bread pudding.

He also has a birthday card with a cute bear on it. "It's for my daughter. She'll be 14," he says. He has three children but does not live with them. "Exploding nuclear family, you see," he says. I say that I have one of those, too. So, as it turns out, does Terry. He has five children and says that he "half lives" with a woman. My eyebrows go up. "That means we both have our own places and it's lovely." Derek nods. "Yes, I always thought that was the best way."

Terry and Derek are in their late 40s and have known each other for 30 years. They are original East Enders and give me a mini-history lesson of the area, starting with 1944 and the war and ending in 1999 with the all-night Brick Lane bagel shop. They are unemployed, although Terry used to run a mini-cab business and Derek claims to be retraining as an aromatherapist.

I look at this tall man in a black puffer jacket and baseball hat and raise my eyebrows. "No, I'm a Renaissance man! You've probably picked the most complex men in this store," he insists. He then claims that this situation reminds him of a Woody Allen movie and heads for the checkout. He spends £3.27 and Terry hands over £1.50. "Ta da, love," they say.

Indeed. I amble up an aisle and am immediately intrigued at the sight of two large men and one half-filled trolley. They are obviously a couple, haggling over whether to get this loaf or that. One has dyed blond hair and four gold earrings. The other has dark cropped hair, a leather jacket and a calculator. It turns out this is their weekly shop. They like shopping at night because they can't stand all those other people. I commiserate about this. The one with the calculator is named Jaz. He used to be a bouncer but is between doors at the moment. Ian is registered disabled with osteoarthritis. Jaz says he adopted the calculator to keep Ian in check. He wants to stay within £100.

There is something wonderfully voyeuristic about going on a weekly shop with two near strangers. I am shocked when Jaz picks up four pounds of sugar. "In one week!" I say. Ian gets an entire case of tinned tomatoes and says that, at 9p a tin, that's a bargain. He does the cooking, although Jaz says he sets a lovely table.

They buy loads of dog food for their bull mastiff and have a long pause at the body spray counter. The end result is that they spend £138.20 and Ian says that it's only because I'm there that Jaz has not started complaining.

I decide I need to pick up a few things myself and wander over to smoked meats, where I find Melissa. She is extremely pretty with long, straight blond hair and a Barbie-type face. She says she normally comes shopping with her flatmate and they spend £160. They buy a lot of make-up, videos and CDs. This week she's by herself, so she'll spend less. Melissa and her flatmate are table dancers and the reason she's alone is that her flatmate has to dance until 2am, while she left at midnight.

Melissa is 23 and originally from the West Country. She is very direct and uses my name in almost every sentence. I ask whether she wants to go to university. "I've done that, Ann," she says, selecting an upmarket frozen meal. "Studied to be an accountant. Gave it up."

I ask her how much she earns. She gives me a sharp look and says that such things are never discussed. It emerges that some girls earn £400 a week, while others can earn £2,000. This shuts me up.

But not for long. There is obviously something about being in a near empty supermarket at 2am that makes you want to talk. Suddenly I start to muse.

I say to Melissa that people might think her life is glamorous. Certainly people seem to believe that journalism is glamorous and yet, if that was the case, why was I trailing round a supermarket at 2am pestering her?

"Yes, Ann, why is that?" she says. "Why aren't you interviewing some movie star in a Hollywood hotel room?" I say that, given that choice, I'd probably pick the supermarket anyway and that I want to find out whether people who shop in the middle of the night are strange. "But why don't you just make it up, Ann? What's stopping you?" she asks, rootling in the chilled foods cabinet for a pre-packaged tuna salad.

I tell her about the people I've talked to and say they seemed pretty normal. "Oh right, a gay couple and a stripper. Yes, very normal," she says. "Look, I'll tell you where the strange people are, Ann. They are all in the table dancing joints. They aren't in Tesco! If you want strange, you are in the wrong place, Ann."

And with that she selected a largish package of mange tout and placed it in her trolley with something of a flourish.

Ian Jack is away.

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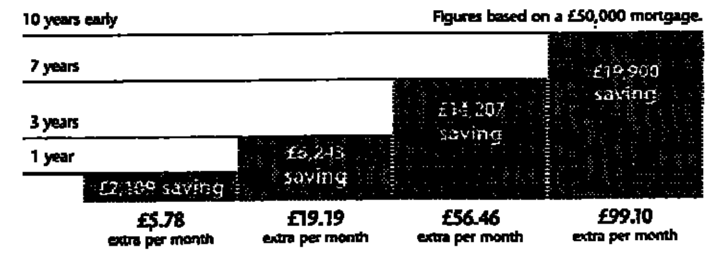

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Blair urges battle against separatists

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR tried yesterday to pull together the Labour Party in Scotland for a battle against the "separatists" of the Scottish National Party. Labour is by no means certain to win.

In a speech to the Scottish party's annual conference in Glasgow, the Prime Minister recognised suspicions of the New Labour project among Scottish activists and called on "social democrats and socialists" to unite in the election campaign for the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Blair appealed to Old Labour values of "solidarity", not just for a Labour Party that has been in turmoil in Scotland since the general election, but also between the nations of the United Kingdom. "It is a battle between social justice and separatism," he said. He claimed that SNP policies would lead to job losses and put an extra £30 a week on the tax bill of every Scot on average earnings.

In an ironic reminder of Labour's difficulties over the past two years, delegates were welcomed to the city by Pat Lally, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, who humiliated the party in court when it tried to discipline him over an alleged "trips for votes" scandal that hit the city council. Mr Lally is bowing out of politics before the advent of the new parliament, which he regards with deep misgivings.

But with the SNP almost neck-and-neck with Labour in the opinion polls, Mr Blair and the leadership were out to rebuild bridges in the run-up to the 6 May elections. John Reid, a Transport minister, said New Labour was not the invention of a "London-based élite" and that *it* spoke with a Scottish accent as well as Welsh, Brummie, Scouse and southern English.

"It lives in council schemes as well as in private estates. It wears boiler suits as well as an Armani suit," Mr Reid said.

Responding to criticisms that "London" wants to keep control of both party and parliament, Mr Blair said that the point of devolution was to bring diversity. The Holyrood parliament would call for "distinctive Scottish solutions to Scottish problems", he said, citing proposals for land reform, the establishment of a Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency – there isn't one in England – and a lead in nursery-school provision.

By 2003, if Scotland voted Labour in May, there would be a minimum of four computers in every primary and secondary school classroom, Mr Blair said, doubling the target for the rest of the UK and striking at an SNP proposal to save £62m every three years by scraping the Internet National Grid for Learning.

Attacking what he called the politics of identity, the Prime Minister said the only policy that mattered to the SNP was divorce from England. "They are a one-issue party. But this is not a one-issue parliament," he said.

Leaks were 'crime with no victims'

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

TONY BLAIR stepped in to support his Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, yesterday after the revelation of three leaks from a Commons committee led to calls for his resignation.

Mr Cook admitted on Wednesday that he had been sent not only a draft of a sensitive Foreign Affairs Committee report on arms shipments to Sierra Leone, but also human rights and EU enlargement reports.

The Conservatives were questioning every other cabinet minister yesterday to find out whether a "culture of leaking" had grown up at Westminster.

The Prime Minister suggested in a BBC interview that the crime had been a victimless one. "The allegation is that Mr Cook's department received reports, not that he's acted on them in any shape or form at all. The Speaker has already said that in a general sense she wants to look into it, and I think that's the right way to proceed."

In a separate radio interview, Mr Cook said he had nothing to apologise for. The Foreign Secretary, in Russia meeting the Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, at his Black Sea dacha, said that as an MP he had the right to sit in on committees' meetings. It would be "rather curious" for one MP to be banned from knowing what other MPs were thinking.

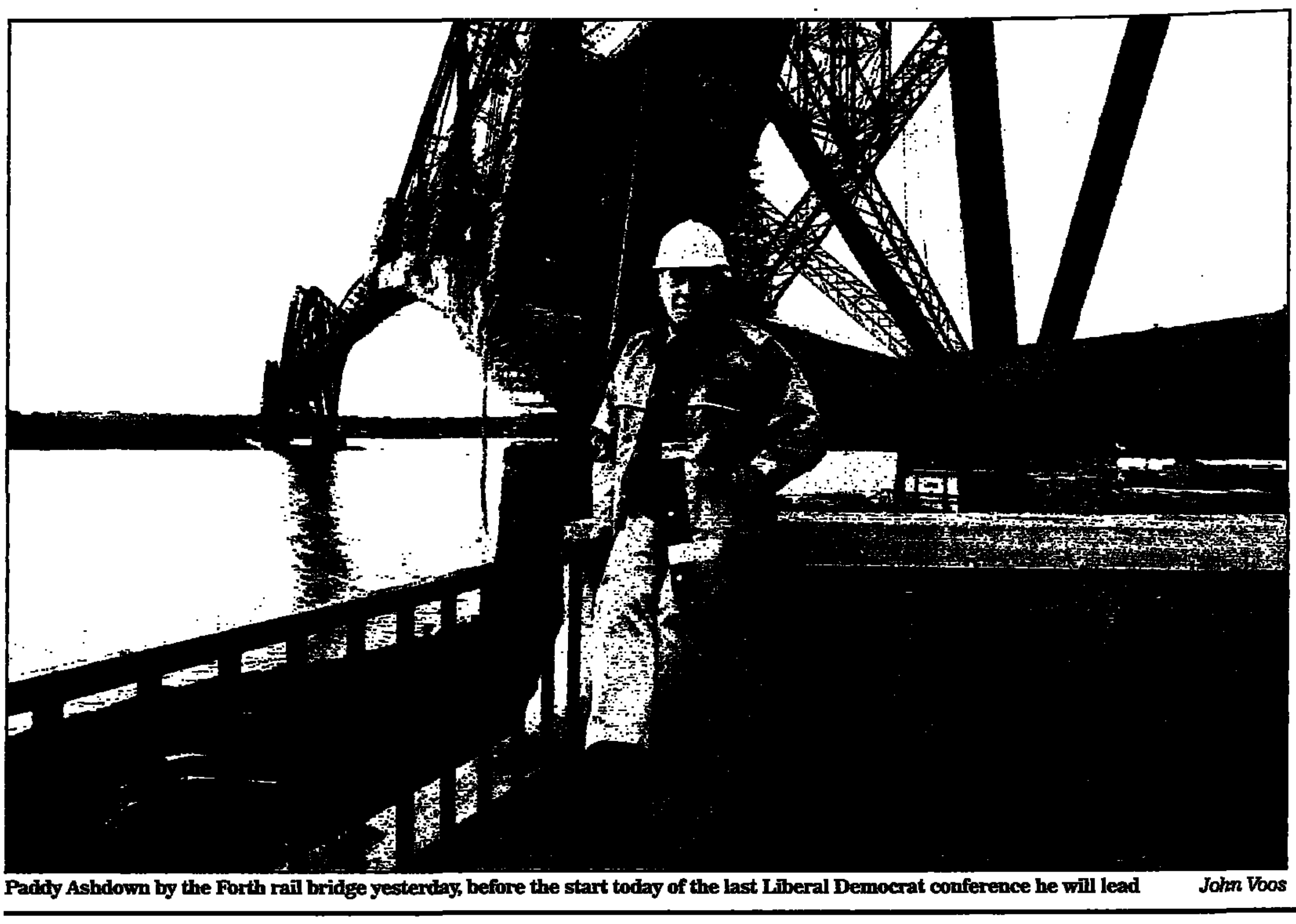
However, other Labour MPs expressed concern. Former Labour minister Derek Foster, chairman of the Employment Select Committee, said the new leaks were "very disturbing news because this kind of thing can only serve to undermine the select committee system".

Donald Anderson, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said any minister who received such a leaked report should send it back. "Any government which is forewarned that there are recommendations which are critical of the government may be tempted to lean on backbench members to get rid of those recommendations or tone them down."

Robert Sheldon, Labour chairman of the anti-sleaze Standards and Privileges Committee, said he would launch an investigation into the new leaks.

The former Conservative Home Office minister, David Maclean, claimed the Government had a "leaker" on every committee. "In view of the way the Government, through No 10, try to control all aspects of Parliament, we must assume they have set up an institutionalised system of narks," he said.

The leaked report on EU enlargement was seen by the Foreign Office minister Joyce Quin and not by her colleague Derek Fatchett, as stated in yesterday's *Independent*.



Paddy Ashdown by the Forth rail bridge yesterday, before the start today of the last Liberal Democrat conference he will lead *John Voos*

Ashdown fights to the end

BY ALISON LITTLE

PADDY ASHDOWN began his last party conference as leader with a pledge that the Liberal Democrats will fight for every vote in the May Scottish and Welsh elections.

Mr Ashdown is accused by some of being keen to "cosy up" to the Government. But in Edinburgh last night he warned: "The SNP and Labour seem determined to recreate in Holyrood a Toytown replica of Westminster.

"That would be a disaster for Scotland and the cause of reform right across the UK. Every Liberal Democrat vote on May 6 will be a vote to prevent that happening."

There is a strong possibility the Scottish elections, held using proportional representation, will put the Liberal Democrats in coalition government at Holyrood.

The official Liberal Democrat policy is that if no one gets an overall majority, it would negotiate first with the party that won the most seats, as the most democratic option.

MPs agree to outlaw 'barbaric' mink farms

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Correspondent

PLANS TO outlaw fur farming in Britain moved closer yesterday when MPs agreed to end such "barbaric practice" as long as farmers were compensated.

The Fur Farming (Prohibition) Private Member's Bill would mean an end for Britain's 13 remaining mink farms by January 2002 after a phasing out period.

Elliot Morley, minister for the countryside, said there was a "very clear" case against fur farming on animal welfare and morality grounds. He declined to give details about the amount of compensation that would be paid, but made it clear that any attempts to improve standards of farming instead would lead to uncertainty and even bankruptcy in the industry.

The Bill proposes that it should be a criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £20,000, to keep animals for slaughter or for breeding, where the primary purpose is to obtain the value of their fur.

Between 100,000 and 150,000 young mink are slaughtered on farms each year for their pelts. Introducing her Bill, Maria Eagle, the Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, denied that the measure was an attempt to ban the wearing, purchase or sale of fur. It would solely aim to "prohibit the cruel exploitation of essentially wild animals for what is an inessential luxury item", she said.

The Bill was given an unopposed second reading.

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Archie needs educating in the ways of the Commons

THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BROWN

THE BUDGET leaks this year have centred on the taxing of child benefit, the abolition of the married man's tax allowance and the final withdrawal of mortgage tax relief. But the absence of kite-flying by the Chancellor's garrulous former spin-doctor Charlie Whelan means that the strategic centrepiece has remained secret.

On past form, Gordon Brown will flourish some tax wizardry to stun an unsuspecting public. Last year, he raised taxes by stealth with an announcement suggesting a reduction in company corporation tax, which actually led to more corporation tax being levied. Assuming the next election comes in the spring of 2001, Mr Brown has three Budgets left to create the economic conditions for Labour's re-election. His promised 10p tax band is still to be delivered but Tuesday looks too soon.

Other clues have been restricted to a hint by Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, of more generous tax treatment of pensioners; and the pegging of interest rates last week by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee – which suggests a mildly expansionary Budget unlikely to inflict any immediate pain.

◆

ARCHIE NORMAN, the Tory party vice-chairman and former supermarket boss, grasped the chump-of-the-week trophy as he underlined, yet again, his inability to grasp Commons procedures.

Mr Norman spends most of his time sacking party bureaucrats and rubbing voluntary members up the wrong way, which means his attendances in the Commons are infrequent. Making a rare appearance, he blundered in with a convoluted supplementary question that had nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

Amid jeers from the government benches, the Speaker ordered him to resume his seat. Eventually, after Labour MPs taunted him with "Try this one, Archie" he managed to splutter 17 words asking when the next round of private finance initiatives would be announced. He was met with a curt one-word ministerial answer: "Shortly".

It was only a few months ago that Tory MPs, most of whom loathe him, guffawed with delight as the Speaker cut him off for being unable to get a coherent question in order, to Tony Blair. I suggest he sticks to the grocery trade.

◆

DIANE ABBOTT (Lab, Hackney North & Stoke Newington) landed a heavy blow on the Government with a trenchant demand for select committees to play a key role in restraining "a government with a large majority and a command and control attitude to governance".

Reminding MPs that she had been removed by the Labour whips from the Treasury Committee, she speculated that this was because, after eight years, she might just be capable of making a speech without a brief from Millbank. "Of course, that would never do."

Ms Abbott senses a different atmosphere on joining the Foreign Affairs Committee. She described how Robin Cook told members "they should be travelling to far-flung corners of the globe building good personal relationships with obscure Wisconsin congressmen".

The subsequent admission yesterday by Mr Cook, to David Wilshire (C, Spelthorne), that he has now received three leaked committee reports, looks likely to give Ms Abbott and the Tories further ammunition. Prime suspect for the leaks appears, once again, to be Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee West) who could face suspension from the Commons after the Standards and Privileges Committee, at the request of the Speaker, investigates the matter.

◆

WITH THE latest opinion poll giving more dire news for William Hague, this time on his unpopularity among Conservative voters, it seems fantastic that he still talks about party expulsions rather than recruitment.

Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine are the intended targets of his dark "out on your ear" threats if they do not toe the party line over Europe. Mr Hague seems to be looking for an opportunity to stamp his foot in the name of tough leadership. But he should beware in case these old war-horses call his bluff. By continuing to refer to them as "has-beens" he simply alienates and infuriates party supporters in their age group – the bedrock of the remaining Tory vote.

Mr Hague has not yet learnt the Thatcher trick of embracing disparate groups within the party. She went to great lengths to retain and square the likes of Jim Prior, who had previously backed Ted Heath. In fact, Lord Prior should be phoned up and brought inside the Hague tent as a wise old owl after his appearance at this week's launch of the anti-euro campaign. This was far more significant than Lord Owen's presence – guaranteed to scupper the campaign if his track record in the Labour Party and the SDP is anything to go by.

Lord Prior has more time on his hands, after retiring from the chairmanship of GEC, and a great deal of credibility with many moderate Tories. He would be a far greater help to Mr Hague's cause if he was given a formal party position.

◆

The black actress and singer Patti Boulaye may be a Tory choice for the Greater London Assembly but promises of more women and "with it" Tory MPs foundered last night at the first hurdle.

The membership in Leominster was balloted on its parliamentary choice for the super-safe Herefordshire seat after the defection to Labour of Peter Temple-Morris. There were four candidates: no women were included; three attended Eton; and one, a retired colonel, went to the King's School, Chester, and Sandhurst. *Plus ça change.*

◆

DAVID BORROW (Lab, Ribble South) returned to the Commons main entrance after a jog, thinking he had timed it perfectly as he heard the division bell. His attempts to enter Carriage Gates, however, were frustrated as pedestrians were held back by police waving in ministerial limousines. As the division clock ticked Mr Borrow, dressed in trainers and shorts, became increasingly anxious as he tried to convince the police of his identity.

Trying to imagine the sweating jogger as a New Labour MP, one officer said: "Next time, wear a tie, sir."

هكذا من الأعلى

Teatime battle for 'News At Ten'

By Paul McCann and Rhys Williams

NEWS AT TEN bowed out of the schedules last night with a nostalgic celebration of its 32 years on air as other broadcasters geared up to fight ITV for late evening viewers.

The final news programme ran an extended, six-minute festival of itself in a last "And Finally" slot. A clearly emotional Trevor McDonald had gone to work early to write his final words, thanking the programme's 7 million viewers for their patronage and attention over three decades.

A trawl through its archive was dominated by its coverage of war and disaster. The centrepiece of the footage was the Vietnam war and the image of Kim Phuc, a young girl running towards the camera, the skin hanging from her body as she fled the napalm bombing of Trang Bang in June 1972.

Another famous piece of footage was of three aircraft being blown up in the desert by Palestinian hijackers in Jordan in 1970. The producers hired an entire Air France passenger aircraft so one editor could bring the film back to London.

The oldest footage came from the programme's reports on the war in Biafra from 1967 to 1970. *News At Ten* broke new ground when it filmed a rebel begging for his life before being executed by Nigerian soldiers. It was the first time British television had shown a killing on screen.

The final good-bye was said by seven former *News At Ten* newsreaders who were spliced together from their days saying "goodnight" on screen. Arguably, the most famous of all came from Reginald Bosanquet. *News At Ten* always encouraged a cult of personality around its newsreaders – in strict opposition to the BBC, which in the Fifties did not even show newsreaders and, when it later did, refused to put their names on screen.

The news-free ITV evening schedule has prompted BBC schedulers to set up a strategy aimed at holding on to viewers after 9pm. ITV claimed it needed to move the news so it can run films and dramas uninterrupted after the watershed. It also wants to put on more cutting edge comedy than that available for broadcast before 9pm.

BBC1 and BBC2 will work closer together to hold viewers from ITV by getting them on to BBC2 while the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*, which has about 5 million viewers, is broadcast. BBC2 will screen more populist shows at 9pm that run for half an hour. The BBC hopes that viewers will then turn from BBC2 to BBC1 rather than to ITV where its dramas or films will have been running for 30 minutes. However, the BBC must suspect that it is heading for a ratings beating and senior executives have already started making speeches about how ratings are not the main determinant of a public service broadcaster's success.

Channel 4 plans to leave ratings-chasing to ITV and BBC1, but it will focus on holding younger viewers away from ITV's films by airing its popular American shows such as *Friends*, *ER* and *Frasier*. Channel 5 is sticking to the strategy that is now being copied by ITV – running films uninterrupted from 9pm.

Trevor McDonald wound up 'News At Ten' last night

THE FIGHT FOR EVENING SCHEDULE SUPREMACY

	ITV	BBC	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
WHAT ARE THEY DOING	**NEWS:** Moving News at Ten to 6.30 and rebranding it the ITV Evening News. It will retain Trevor McDonald, "and finally..." and the bongs, but will feature a colourful (lots of orange) new set. **ENTERTAINMENT:** Uninterrupted films and drama from 9pm, plus the opportunity to experiment with new comedy and less mainstream drama at 10pm. So on Monday there will be an uninterrupted 90-minute episode of Kavanagh QC on Monday, followed by Goldeneye on Wednesday. There are also two new shows - the drama Wonderful You and comedy with The Grimleys.	**NEWS:** Six O'Clock news will be relaunched on 10 May with a new regular presenter Huw Edwards and a new virtual set. Small dedicated team of correspondents will tell viewers "why it matters". **ENTERTAINMENT:** A joint strategy by BBC 1 and 2 to bring back viewers to the main channel at 9.30pm. BBC2 to schedule more populist programming like The Fast Show at 9pm to compete with continuous drama and films on ITV. High profile cross promotion will encourage viewers to switch back to BBC1 at 9.30 when BBC will look to run shows like Dinnerladies and Neighbours at War.	**NEWS:** Fresh from another revamp. The colourful ties sported by anchor Jon Snow still make a splash but in danger of being upstaged by a bright set not wholly dissimilar to Channel 5's. **ENTERTAINMENT:** Brookside will remain its midweek peak time linchpin, but otherwise it will leave crowd pulling to the big boys. It will concentrate on being distinctive rather than derivative. ER, Sex and the City and Queer as Folk were obvious attempts to build loyalty prior to ITV's changes. Younger focus at 10pm to continue with shows like South Park, and Ibiza Uncovered.	**NEWS:** Moving its bulletin for the second time since its launch - then from 8.30pm to 7pm, now from 7pm to 6pm. Featues colour coded news areas (orange for sport) and Kirsty Young on walkabout. **ENTERTAINMENT:** C5 director of programmes Dawn Airey is looking at ways to bolster its traditionally weak 8-9pm slot and hold on to audience after 1pm. an objective so far achieved by recourse to soft-porn. Otherwise, it will stick with uninterrupted films from 9pm (Arnie's Running Man next week and Independence Day later in the year) and occasional exclusive sports coverage.
WILL IT WORK?	Is Gordon Ramsay known to raise his voice on occasions? In a word, yes. ITV only just missed out on its target of a 38 per cent share of peak time viewing last year and should have little difficulty in passing that next week (in fact, its target for this year is 39 per cent, rising to 40 per cent in 2000). The only exceptions are likely to be when BBC1 screens Arnold Schwarzenegger's True Lies on Tuesday and Comic Relief on Friday.	Even before the shift in News at Ten. BBC1 had seen its share fall below the psychology barrier of 30 per cent. With ITV stripping Who Wants to Be a Millionaire across the week and premiering Goldeneye, the BBC is sure to take a ratings kicking. But ITV will not be able to do that every week. Significantly, BBC executives are already being deployed far and wide to repeat the mantra of size isn't everything.	Channel 4 will never be judged by audience share alone. Michael Jackson would naturally be alarmed if there was a drastic reduction in ratings, but his current preoccupation is to find badge programmes that will make the network look distinctive, daring and innovative. Monica - The Interview pulled in more than 3m viewers but look at the attention it received.	By the end of 1998 (its first full calendar year on air), Channel 5 had doubled it audience share to 4.3 per cent. Maintaining that sort of momentum in the face of ITV's rampant populism will prove a real - and in all likelihood impossible - challenge. By shifting the news to 6.30 pm, ITV has at a stroke deprived Channel 5 of its unique selling point at launch - that it ran films uninterrupted by the news.

Monica pulls in the crowds

By Rhys Williams

JUST IN case the Starr report, Bill Clinton's impeachment trial and assorted television interviews missed some wrinkle in the case, the authorised biography of Monica Lewinsky was officially published yesterday.

Booksellers across the country reported keen interest and brisk trade, although precise first-day sales figures will not be available until today. The launched followed Thursday evening's interview with Ms Lewinsky on Channel 4, which was watched by more than three million viewers.

The initial print run of *Monica's Story*, written by Andrew Morton and published by Michael O'Mara books, will be 100,000 copies, vast by conventional hardback standards and twice as many as the initial run of *Diana: Her True Story*.

The former White House intern arrives in Britain this weekend for an 18-day book-signing tour that begins at the Harrods branch of Waterstone's on Monday. Zelda Suite-Pedler, the branch's marketing manager, said customers were ringing up every three minutes to reserve of a copy of the book. "This is the biggest signing we've had here, the interest has been phenomenal," she said. "The other major signing was Margaret Thatcher and that was huge."

Ms Lewinsky and her entourage will visit 19 shops. A WH Smith spokeswoman said: "There has been a great deal of interest. It's obviously not as big as the Diana book, but it's certainly the most significant since Richard Branson's autobiography [*Losing My Virginity*]."

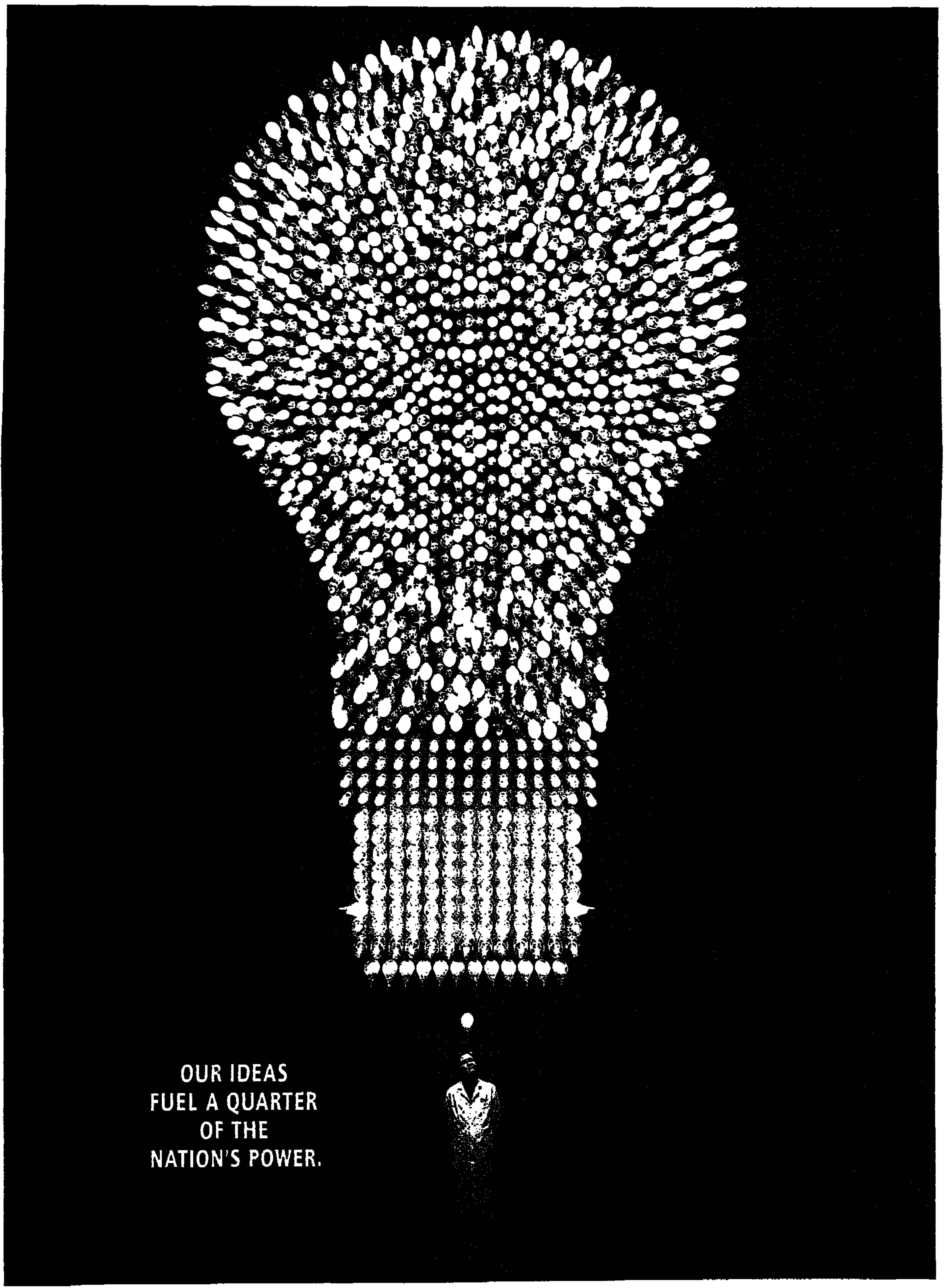
As for what readers will learn from the book, that seems to be rather less – certainly in terms of details about sexual trysts – than the Starr report.

Instead, it reveals a stint at an eating disorders clinic as a teenager; an abortion, resulting from a three-month fling with a Pentagon worker, in the midst of her relationship with Clinton; that she lost her virginity at 19 to a married man whose wife was expecting a baby; that after she found out the man was seeing someone younger, she "paid him back" by having a fling with his younger brother; and that she was taking antidepressants.

SUE ARNOLD

My fear and loathing of lacrosse spread to all other sports

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 5



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Libraries shelve new book buying

The new British Library in St Pancras, north London, one of the few libraries that has a copy of every new book *Kalpesh Lathigra*

BY CLARE GARNER

MODERN AND popular fiction has borne the brunt of budget cuts to book funds for public libraries, a survey by *The Independent* has revealed.

Despite this being the National Year of Reading, widespread cutbacks are being proposed for public libraries across the country. *The Independent's* random survey of 10 public libraries in the UK has highlighted how public access to best-selling and award-winning books is shrinking. Most of the libraries surveyed had only two copies of modern bestsellers. and these were almost invariably out on loan.

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, has warned local authorities that "unjustified cuts to library services are simply not acceptable". He has written to 21 councils, demanding that they improve their services, and threatened six with investigations.

But much damage has already been done. Some 48 per cent of authorities have closed libraries in the past 10 years and 74 per cent have reduced opening hours, according to a survey by Sheffield University. Where libraries have stayed open, that survey found, many knowledgeable staff have been made redundant and book stocks diminished.

The purchasing value of library book funds has dropped by 12 per cent in the past 10 years. Somerset is one of the worst hit counties. In 1995-96 the county council cut the book fund by £300,000. Librarians decided to cancel any fiction purchases that year to protect the non-fiction stock.

Rob Froud, county librarian in Somerset, said: "Our book fund for our 34 libraries is now in the region of £500,000. It should be nearer £900,000"

Jan Ketteringham, of Northallerton Library in North Yorkshire, where both copies of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres are out on loan, said: "At times we have up to a dozen people waiting for *Captain Corelli*, which could mean waiting six months." Liverpool Central Library, the second largest library in the country, has one copy of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. It is on loan and has five reservations.

Most libraries surveyed had only one copy of Irvine Welsh's bestseller *Trainspotting*, although Edinburgh Central Library had made an exception for the book, which is set in the city, housing seven copies, six of which were on loan.

Cardiff Central Library has five copies of each of the following: *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe, *Vanity Fair* by W M Thackeray, and *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens, and seven copies of *Villette* by Charlotte Brontë. None of these books is on loan. In contrast, the Cardiff library has just one copy of *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, *Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby, *The Beach* by Alex Garland, and *Longitude* by Dava Sobel. In each case, the book is out on loan. Richard Phillips, assistant chief librarian of Cardiff County Library, said: "We have one copy of *Fever Pitch*; three years ago we would have had three. There are only nine copies countywide. Three years ago there would have been double that."

Guy Daines, professional adviser to the Library Association, said yesterday: "There has been a substantial decline in the number of book loans in the past six years ... Multiple copies are one of the first casualties and therefore it is modern and popular literature which have probably suffered the worst cutbacks.

"It is well-known that most people who go into libraries to borrow books choose them through browsing rather than *knowing* that they are going to borrow a certain author or title. Their choice is restricted now because a certain percentage of stock is never on show.

"The large decline in book funds means the choice and quality on the bookshelves has suffered. In the National Year of Reading, that is more than ironic. It is a tragedy."

THE BOOKS

10 books every library should have:

Alias Grace
by Margaret Atwood
Captain Corelli's Mandolin
by Louis de Bernières
Bridget Jones's Diary
by Helen Fielding
Mary Queen of Scots
by Antonia Fraser
The Beach
by Alex Garland
Fever Pitch
by Nick Hornby
The God of Small Things
by Arundhati Roy
A Suitable Boy
by Vikram Seth
Longitude
by Dava Sobel
Trainspotting
by Irvine Welsh

THE LIBRARIES

The 10 libraries surveyed:

Ashford, Kent
Taunton, Somerset
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
Durham City
Northallerton, North Yorkshire
Rotherham Central, South Yorkshire
Liverpool Central
Willesden Green, north-west London
Cardiff County
Edinburgh Central

Why these works matter

IN AN AGE of well-stocked high-street chains and cut-price supermarket retailing, many believe public libraries have no need to stock recent bestsellers. This is true up to a point: the nation's cultural health may not require that slices of your council tax should go towards shelves full of the latest works of Jilly Cooper or Jeffrey Archer.

Yet the books we have chosen for this survey belong in a quite different bracket. They represent the much-lauded rise of the brain-stretching blockbuster; the thinking reader's chart sensation. For Dava Sobel's *Longitude*, Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*, or Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*, the loss is clear enough if readers find that libraries can no longer meet their needs.

Yet, in their own way, a *Trainspotting*, a *Fever Pitch*, even a *Bridget Jones's Diary*, can contribute to the culture in a decisive way. Not only do they have their own distinctive merits and values. They have also become the focus of a wide debate that presumes a familiarity with these books as a sort of enfranchisement.

But, for many library users, a £7.99 cover price will be just as much of a disincentive as a £79 tag. Exclude most of them from free (ie tax-funded) access to titles of this kind, and you will shut them out from the discussions that define our times.

BOYD TONKIN
LITERARY EDITOR

Bride convicted after wedding-day brawl

BY MARK WILKINSON

A BRIDE who spent her honeymoon night in cells after violence flared at her wedding reception was convicted yesterday of assaulting police officers.

Michelle Darcier, 28, of Whetstone, north London, who was alleged to have taken on six police officers in the fracas at her wedding on St Valentine's Day last year, was given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay court costs of £100.

The wedding disaster led to Darcier's marriage ending two months later, stipendiary magistrate Susan Jones was told at Sheffield magistrates' court.

Darcier and her husband are now separated and she is working as a bus driver to provide for her two children.

Ian Gilmore, for the prosecution, said Darcier had shouted and sworn at officers, and kicked and scratched them as they tried to restrain her. She was convicted of three charges of assaulting police and one of being drunk and disorderly, but was cleared of three other charges of assault. She had denied all the charges.

The magistrate said there was no evidence to prove Darcier had carried out all six assaults, but that it was clear she had lost control and became "wild and violent" when officers tried to restrain her.

"The best day of your life turned into a brawl of huge proportions but you did take your part in that," she said.

Darcier and Mark Thompson, a Scots Guardsman, had been married just a few hours when police were called to their reception at The Office public house in Sheffield after a fight between her father and the bridegroom's stepfather sparked the mass brawl. Robert Hannah, the pub landlord, said: "It was like pandemonium." It took four officers to carry the bride, still in her wedding dress, to a police van.

Darcier denied having been drunk, saying she was assaulted by police. "I was just trying to get my children out," she told the court. "One officer told me they wouldn't normally arrest a bride on her wedding night but they hadn't had a good scrap in ages."

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هكذا من الاعلى

Man who lost his shirt on Palace

By Andrew Buncombe

Goldberg (left) at Palace's ground with Terry Venables

ON ANY normal match day Mark Goldberg, the chairman of Crystal Palace football club, would turn up for the game in a white stretch limousine. Tasteless perhaps, but typical of the man's in-your-face style.

Today, playing away to Bury in Lancashire, Mr Goldberg is likely to arrive by such ostentatious transport. He has just become known as the man who managed to gamble a £20m fortune on the team he has supported since his schooldays – and lose.

In the programme for one of Palace's recent home fixtures, Mr Goldberg wrote: "I am proud to have assembled one of the strongest management teams in the country and a squad, who over the next five years, will take this club to heights it has never experienced before." This morning the club is facing debts of £20m, the administrators have been called in and the team is in 14th place in Division One, sandwiched between Barnsley and Tranmere Rovers.

Yesterday things took a further twist when a letter from Jim McAvoy, the club's former chief executive, to Palace directors was leaked revealing the full deal offered by Mr Goldberg to hire manager Terry Venables to Selhurst Park. As part of the package, Mr Venables received a tax-free salary of £750,000, a £650,000 house and a one-off payment of £135,000 just for entering talks.

"It's astonishing although I don't think Goldberg is totally to blame," said Laurie Dahl, editor of the club fanzine *Palace Echo*. "Of course he is to blame to an extent but I think he also suffered as a result of hiring Terry Venables. Fans are very angry – things are as bleak as they have ever been."

Many pundits lay the blame for such decline directly at the feet of Mr Goldberg. "Make no mistake, and let no-one tell you any different – he is a buffoon," said one lifelong fan and season-ticket holder. "The trouble is he was star-struck."

Mr Goldberg bought Crystal Palace last summer, completing a deal that had begun a year earlier when he became a director of the club, having invested £3m. This is turn gave him an option to buy Crystal Palace for £30m. As it transpired, Mr Goldberg bought the club for £22.8m.

Goldberg, founder of the IT recruitment agency MSB, was once listed as the 617th richest men in Britain.But by the time he came to buy Palace he was more than £4m short of the money he needed. This shortfall was made up by a loan from Palace's former chairman Ron Noades. Under the terms of the deal, Mr Noades retained the ownership of the ground, Selhurst Park and the club shop.

In essence, all Mr Goldberg was to get was the name Crystal Palace and the contracts of the 40 or more players. Even Mr Noades admitted that Mr Goldberg had paid above the odds and had not left himself enough capital. Mr Goldberg himself, still personally worth an estimated £7m, lives in some style in Beckenham, Kent. A few miles up the road sits Holewood Place, a stately home for which Mr Golberg is seeking planning permission to transform into a golf and leisure club.

Despite such grand ambition, Mr Goldberg is a man of simple, tastes. "His idea of a perfect evening would be a night at the local curry house will copious amounts of lager," said one former associate. "There is a swagger about him. He walks like the bear from the Hofmeister lager adverts."

Mark Goldberg, chairman of Crystal Palace. His resources, as well as his limos, were stretched

Ex-owner of Doncaster Rovers jailed for arson plot

By John Davison

THE FORMER owner of Doncaster Rovers Football Club was jailed for four years yesterday after plotting to burn down the main stand of the club's home ground.

Ken Richardson, 61, showed no emotion as Judge Peter Baker QC sentenced him.

Richardson, of Douglas, Isle of Man, presented "a sorry figure in the dock", said the judge, but he exercised great influence on the club and "used money to set in train serious crime".

Richardson was convicted of conspiracy to commit arson after a two-week trial in January. Sheffield Crown Court was told that the wealthy businessman offered £10,000 to a former SAS soldier to start the fire in 1995 at the club's Belle Vue ground, causing damage put at £100,000. The prosecution said Richardson's intention was to try to force Rovers to move to a new stadium.

The plan failed when Alan Kristiansen, who was hired to start the fire, left his mobile phone at the scene and was quickly traced and arrested.

Gilbert Gray QC, Richardson's barrister, said the five weeks his client had spent in jail since conviction had seriously affected his mental and physical health. He said: "He is a mere shadow of his former self."

Mr Gray said Richardson wanted the best for Doncaster Rovers. "Was this a greedy man seeking to make a huge killing out of insurance? The answer is no," he said. "What it could have achieved was a move for the club."

In 1984 Richardson was given a nine-month suspended sentence and fined £20,000 for his part in a racing scandal known as the Flockton Grey affair.

At an earlier hearing Kristiansen, 41, of Newcastle, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit arson. He was jailed yesterday for 12 months.

Two other men who helped him to start the fire – Ian Hay, 54, from Gateshead, and Alan Cracknall, 32 of Ryton, Newcastle – pleaded guilty to arson. Both were sentenced to nine months, suspended for two years.

The judge said he was considering ordering Richardson to pay costs of £75,000.

More E.coli cases feared

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

PUBLIC HEALTH officials in charge of the *E.coli* outbreak in Cumbria warned yesterday that more cases could appear in the next week as two more suspected victims were admitted to hospital.

The latest cases, both children, bring to 27 the total of confirmed and suspected cases traced to a milk pasteurising unit at a dairy farm in Brigham, near Cockermouth, serving 300 people in the area.

Environmental health officials are worried that the infection could spread from person to person. They urged extra care with personal hygiene and food preparation, especially if a family member had diarrhoea symptoms.

Adults confirmed to have *E.coli* food poisoning were being treated in a special isolation unit at West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven. Children were being treated in individual rooms to eliminate the chance of secondary infection.

A spokesman at West Cumberland Hospital said 11 of the 12 *E.coli* victims – six adults and six children – being treated there were doing well, but one adult was poorly. Three children moved to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle were stable but poorly, and were being treated for kidney problems.

A public health consultant, Dr Stella Goh, has warned that as the condition incubates for between one and six days, people could pass on the infection even though they were showing no symptoms.

The West Cumbria Healthcare NHS Trust chairman, Eric Urquhart, said the hospital had room to care for more patients.

Scientists are analysing the strain of the infection – known as *E.coli* 0157 – to see if it is the same as that which killed 21 people in Lanarkshire two years ago.

A helpline has been set up on 01946-523111.

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Ford

Restaurants make £1,000 a bottle profit

BY MARTIN ISARK
AND STEVE BOGGAN

SOME OF Britain's top restaurants are profiting by up to £1,000 a bottle on wine that most British experts agree is not ready to drink.

Bottles of some of the world's most exclusive wines are on the lists of London's finest restaurants up to six years earlier than the date recommended by producers' agents and leading guides.

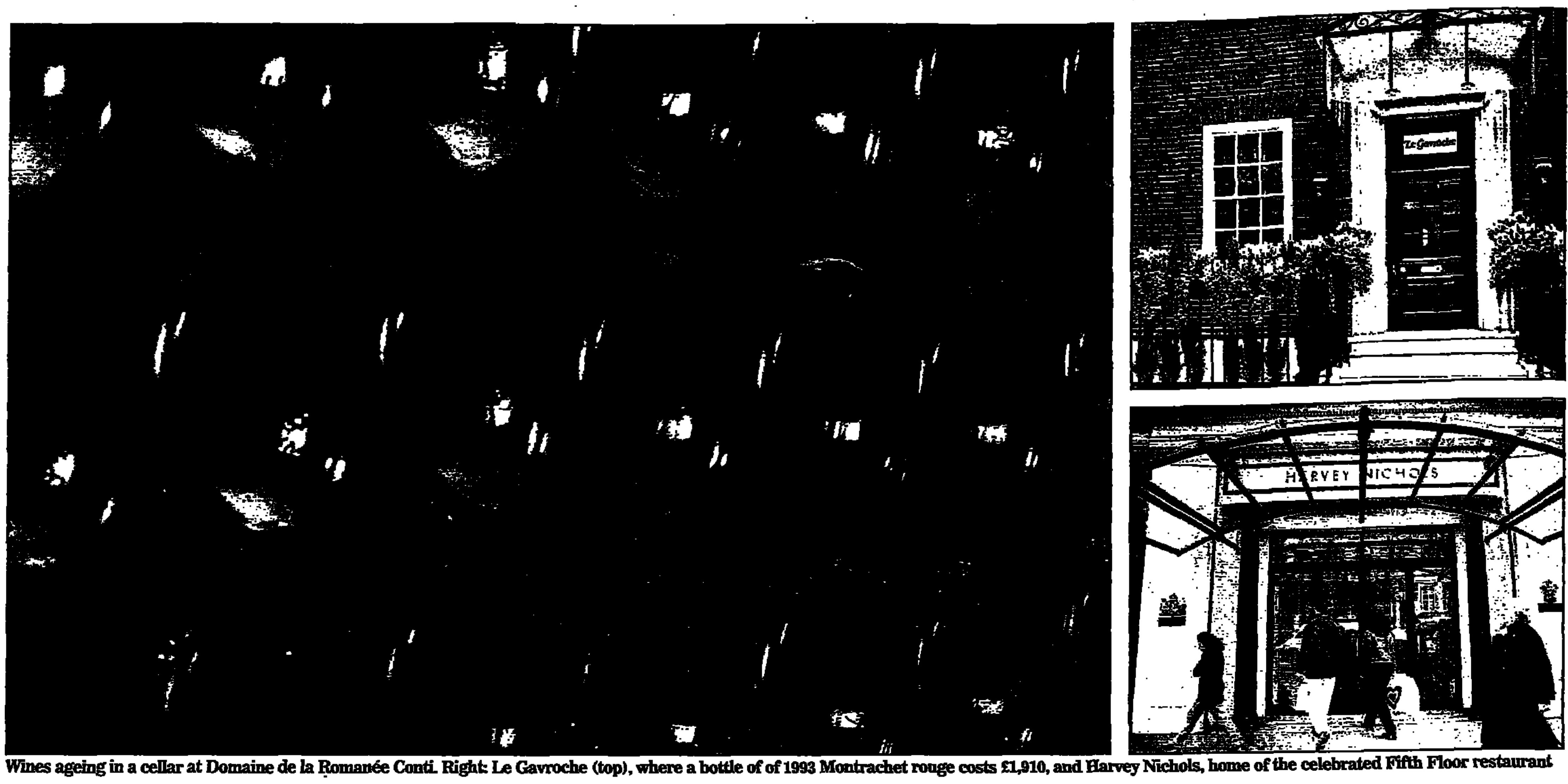
It is during these crucial years that premium wines develop the complex flavours that mark them out from cheaper variations available on the high street. But the very British practice of keeping wine until it reaches its optimum condition causes heated debate in the trade.

The French enjoy drinking much younger wine, and masters of wines, agents, brokers and restaurant sommeliers are divided over whether the practice of selling high-priced wines before they are at their peak is wrong.

Le Gavroche, one of London's best-known restaurants and one of only a handful in the country with two Michelin stars, has a list of about 1,000 wines but Silvano Giraldin, the restaurant manager, admitted that only a hundred or so are at their peak. "We are tying up capital and we need to put the wines on the list sometimes before they are ready," he said.

He sells the 1993 white Montrachet from Domaine de la Romanée Conti (DRC) at £1,331 plus 12.5 per cent service charge despite the fact that it is not at its peak of maturity. On the wine list of Corney and Barrow, agents for DRC, the managing director, Adam Brett-Smith, says the 1993 Montrachet will not be at its best until 2002.

Le Gavroche pitches even higher with the red 1993 Montrachet DRC, charging £1,910 plus service for a wine that the DRC agents say should be kept until 2005.


Wines ageing in a cellar at Domaine de la Romanée Conti. Right: Le Gavroche (top), where a bottle of of 1993 Montrachet rouge costs £1,910, and Harvey Nichols, home of the celebrated Fifth Floor restaurant

But Le Gavroche is not alone. The Oak Room, Marco Pierre White's three-star Michelin-rated restaurant where dinner costs about £100 a head, also lists the 1993 Montrachet DRC – though at £1,050, it is almost £300 cheaper. In each case, the restaurants will have paid considerably less than the £395 plus VAT per bottle that Corney & Barrow now charges.

Restaurants seldom agree on price. A 1993 Le Montrachet Comtes Lafon, which the brokers Morris and Verdin list at about £200 a bottle, sells at The Oak Room for £800; at Gordon Ramsay's restaurant, which has two Michelin stars, the same bottle is listed at £845; and at Harvey Nichols' Fifth Floor restaurant at £290. Morris and Verdin says it should not be drunk for at least another four years – but preferably 10.

Harvey Nichols also lists a Côte Rôtie 1995 Joel Champet at £52.50 and a 1993 La Tâche, Domaine Romanée Conti (sold by brokers at £158) at £350. Yet the agents for the producers say they should not be touched before 2003.

The Oak Room and Harvey Nichols were unable to comment on the pricing of their wine.

Clive Coates, master of wine and publisher of *The Vine*, a monthly magazine on fine wine, agrees. "Wines go through adolescent changes and five years on is a time when the wine has gone to sleep and returned into its shell," he said. "At that age – when many of them are sold at exorbitant prices by these restaurants – the initial puppy fat of fresh fruit has subdued but the mature aromas and complexities have not yet come to the fore.

"You would be better off drinking it after one year than after five. At least you would taste that initial fresh fruit. It is an insult to the people who spend a lot of time and trouble making this wine in the first place to foist it on the public, many of whom are prepared to pay these outlandish prices when all they are doing is committing infanticide. I don't begrudge high margins but I do feel that, given that they are asking someone to pay nearly £2,000, the customer is absolutely entitled to jump up with rage if it's not ready for drinking."

Le Gavroche's Mr Giraldin replied that it would be "madness" to try to sit on wines that are already superb for another five or 10 years. "No one could afford to keep a bottle of very good wine for 50 years before it is ready to drink," he said. "The French drink wine much younger than the English and it is a matter of opinion who is right. The Montrachet, for example, is already an outstanding wine but we have older vintages if customers want them. They may have to pay more and not everyone is prepared to do that, but we give our customers good advice and they get what they want.

"It depends on what school of thought you are coming from – you could argue that only 100 of the 1,000 or so wines that are on the list are at their peak. Now would you want a list with just 100 wines on it?"

Mr Brett-Smith, of Corney & Barrow, said his company's advice, that the wine should be kept longer, would improve it, but he added: "The trouble with so much in wine is that it is a matter of personal opinion.

"The French laugh at the length of time the British prepare to keep it before drinking – in fact the '93 Montrachet is a stunningly good wine already. It would be better in three or four years, but it is the customers who will have the final say when they decide whether or not to vote with their money."

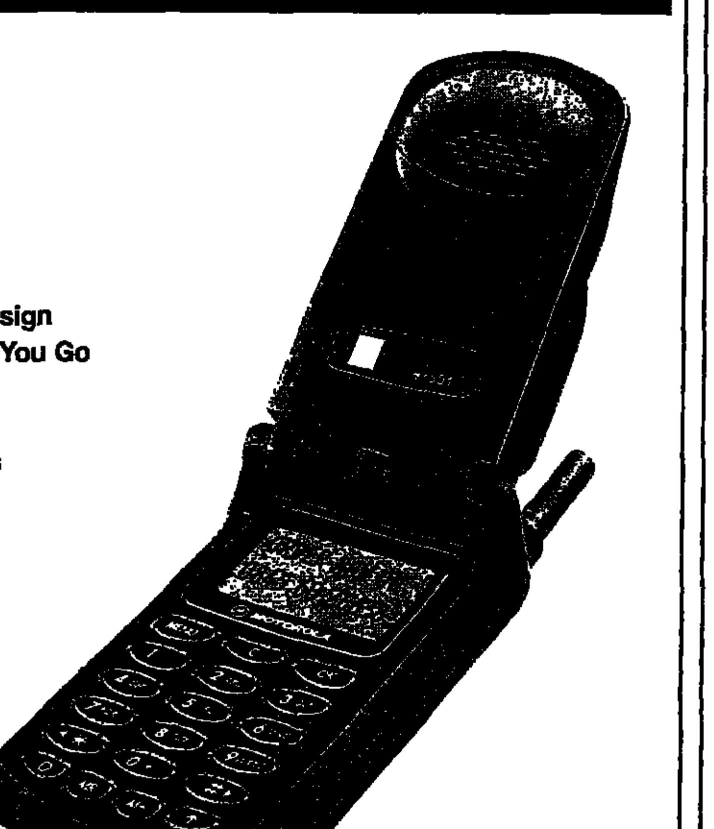
Michael Schuster, an author and wine educator, said: "93 Le Montrachet (DRC) would certainly be impressive and not unenjoyable already, but by no means revealing all its potential subtleties. '93 Romanée Conti or La Tâche on the other hand, from such a tannic vintage, would be tough, unyielding, delivering very little of the pleasure they most certainly will in 10 to 15 years' time."

DRC vineyard's in Vosne Romanée and Chassagne are rated the best places in the world to grow pinot noir and chardonnay. While all grand cru Burgundy is expensive, that from DRC is the most costly. The wine is produced to last and takes time to knit together. It is not drunk to taste oak or the grape but to appreciate the unique expression of the vineyard.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE MARK-UP LIST?

WHITE BURGUNDY				
1993 Le Montrachet - Domaine de la Romanée Conti	*Brokers' price** £250 - £300	*Corney & Barrow* £395 + Vat	*Le Gavroche* £1331+12.5% service	*The Oak Room* £1050+12.5% service
1993 Le Montrachet - Domaine des Comtes Lafon	*Brokers' price* £250	*The Oak Room* £800+12.5% service	*Gordon Ramsay* £845+12.5% service	*Harvey Nichols* £290+12.5% service
RED BURGUNDY				
1993 Romanée Conti - Domaine de la Romanée Conti	*Brokers' price* £1092	*Corney & Barrow* £1000+ Vat	*Le Gavroche* £1910+12.5% service	*Harvey Nichols* n/a
1993 La Tâche - Domaine de la Romanée Conti	*Brokers' price* £188	*Corney & Barrow* £200+Vat	*Le Gavroche* £748+12.5% service	*Harvey Nichols* £350+12.5% service
RED BORDEAUX				
1994 Le Pin, Pomerol	*Brokers' price* £238	*Berry Bros & Rudd* £255 + Vat	*Le Gavroche* £500 +12.5% service	
1994 Pétrus, Pomerol	*Brokers' price* £270	*Corney & Barrow* £225 + Vat	*Le Gavroche* £550 + 12.5% service	
1988 Ch Mouton Rothschild, Pauillac	*Brokers' price* £155	*Le Gavroche* £310	*The Oak Room* £340	*1837 at Brown's Hotel* £350

*Includes [illegible] clearance, transport and Vat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Cigarettes to go up by 20p

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

A HEALTH Minister gave the clearest signal yet yesterday that the Chancellor intends to raise the duty on cigarettes by about 20p for a packet of 20 in Tuesday's Budget.

Unveiling an anti-smoking campaign aimed at young women, Tessa Jowell rejected calls by John Carlisle, the former Tory MP and spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association (TMA), to cut the duty to reduce smuggling of cigarettes from the Continent.

The Public Health minister made clear that she believed pricing cigarettes out of reach of young smokers was a vital weapon in the Government's drive to reduce smoking-related illnesses.

"The Chancellor has had a policy of raising duty on tobacco in the last two Budgets. He has introduced 5 per cent increases against the 3 per cent increases by the last government. We do this for the important reason that there is a clear link between the price of tobacco and levels of consumption."

Adding a further 20p to a packet of 20 will push up the average price of a pack of cigarettes to about £3.64.

Posters showing cigarettes stubbed out in tubs of cosmetics are being used by the Government to persuade teenage girls and young women that cigarettes can damage their looks.

The campaign marks a shift of style from past efforts, which warned of the health risks of smoking. Research has convinced ministers that the way to reach young women is to warn them that smoking to stay thin also leaves them with bad breath and a spotty complexion.

"The posters are directed at 16 to 24-year-olds. They have been carefully tested, and we recognise that if you want to get young women in this age group to give up smoking or not to start, it is less effective to deliver the sort of long-term shock-horror threat than to say smoking is bad for your looks," said Ms Jowell.

The Government set out a tough target in its smoking White Paper, *Smoking Kills*, in December to reduce smoking among children from 13 per cent to 9 per cent by 2010.

PC jailed for dog cruelty

BY BRIAN FARMER

A FORMER police dog trainer convicted of animal cruelty was jailed yesterday for three months.

Kenneth Boorman, a 46-year-old former police constable, was convicted of six cruelty charges by a magistrate sitting in Chelmsford, Essex, last November.

The magistrate heard that Boorman, who had been a dog trainer at the Essex Police Dog Section headquarters in Sandon, ordered handlers to chastise dogs by hanging them over fences and kicking them.

One dog, called Acer, died after being hung and kicked by his handler on Boorman's instructions.

The magistrate imposed a four-month jail sentence on Boorman, who has two children, but released him on bail pending appeal.

Judge Michael Yelton, sitting at Chelmsford Crown Court, reduced Boorman's sentence from four months to three months yesterday. But he said the offences of which Boorman was convicted were so serious that only a custodial sentence was appropriate.

A second former officer also convicted of cruelty towards animals by the magistrate in Chelmsford last November, succeeded in an appeal against his jail sentence.

Andrew White, 38, a former sergeant who was head of training at the Dog Section headquarters, was also given a four-month jail term after being convicted of seven cruelty charges.

But yesterday the judge reduced that sentence to a 28-day jail term, suspended for a year.

The judge said White, who had also been freed on bail pending appeal, was not personally present when dogs were mistreated, although he approved the method of chastisement ordered by Boorman.

Both White and Boorman were dismissed from Essex Police two months ago.

Lawyers for the two men said they were now both suffering from depression, were unemployed, had suffered public ignominy and vilification, and were unemployable.

Judge Yelton rejected White's appeal against conviction. He broke down in tears when the judge said he would not be going to prison.

هكذا من الاعلى

Europe steps up banana war with US

THE UNITED States came under mounting pressure over the banana trade war yesterday, as the supreme body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreed to hold a special meeting about the crisis on Monday.

European capitals ratcheted up the rhetoric against Washington, as the US ambassador to London, Philip Lader, was summoned to the Foreign Office and carpeted by a minister for the second day running and France joined the condemnation of the American action, which effectively doubles the cost of importing a range of European goods.

Brussels is now pursing two complaints at the WTO after Wednesday's decision by the Clinton administration to instruct importers of European goods worth up to $520m (£321m) to post bonds to cover a 100 per cent tariff, if the latter is imposed.

Monday's meeting of the general council of the WTO will provide a forum for a political debate over the US action. That, according to a European Commission spokesman, "will increase diplomatic and political pressure on the US to play by the rules".

At the same time, the European Union has asked the WTO for "urgent consultations". These will allow the trade body to invoke an accelerated process under which the US and the EU would have 20 days to try to settle their differences bilaterally over the sanctions. If they fail, the EU could then ask the WTO to rule on the US sanctions.

Tony Blair, speaking on a visit to Scotland, said that he had held "a very constructive" telephone call with the US

By Stephen Castle
in Brussels

President, Bill Clinton, on Thursday amid fears that the sanctions threat could develop into a full-scale trade war.

"We are also going to sort it out within the European Union as well as with the US," the Prime Minister said, "so I will be making a lot of calls in the next few days."

But there was little sign of conciliatory language as the

Philip Lader: Working for 'an amicable solution'

Government summoned the US ambassador in London for the second time in 24 hours to reprimand him. The Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons "expressed shock and concern at the US decision to launch export restrictions before a WTO ruling in the EU's revised banana regime".

Mr Lader, insisted that Washington would work hard with Britain to solve the dispute. "We're working towards finding an amicable solution, one that is consistent with WTO rules," he said.

The French Foreign Ministry issued a statement "deploring" what it called the "unilateral action" of the US. "We call on them to show good faith and to reverse an unacceptable decision," the statement said.

After a meeting between Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, and Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Byers said that they had "agreed that it was important to maintain our protests at the unilateral action of the US. In addition, steps will be taken at the WTO to get the sanctions lifted".

The sudden and widespread extension of the long-running dispute follows the failure of WTO arbitrators on Tuesday to give a ruling on whether the US was entitled to compensation or to impose sanctions in retaliation for the EU's banana import regime.

On Wednesday, America declared a list of products that will be liable to 100 per cent sanctions, though such action is suspended until the WTO arbitrators' report is ready.

The US believes the EU banana import regime is unfair to South American distributors, most of which are owned by American companies, because the policy allows preferential treatment to former European colonies, such as the Windward islands.

Brussels points out that 78 per cent of banana imports into the EU come from Latin America, which provides 62 per cent of consumption to Europe as a whole. It says that without access to European markets, the economies of Caribbean islands will be devastated, with increasing economic pressure for production of drugs.

Letters, Review, page 2

Security officials examine the wreckage of the car in which the bomb was planted in yesterday's attack *AP*

Turkey car bomb kills three

A CAR bomb exploded in central Turkey yesterday, killing three people and injuring a governor and nine others.

Officials initially suspected the attack may have been carried out in support of the imprisoned Kurdish rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan. But Turkey's chief of police later said the Turkish Workers and Peasants Liberation Army had admitted planting it. The bomb went

By Justin Huggler
in Istanbul

off as Ayhan Cevik, governor of the city of Cankiri, 80 miles from Ankara, was being driven to his office. A schoolgirl, a man and the governor's bodyguard were killed.

The Turkish Workers and Peasants Liberation Army may have been targeting Mr Cevik, as he led a crackdown on the group when he was governor of the city of Tokat. The group has co-operated with Mr Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The governor escaped a similar bomb attack in 1997, when a bomb went off behind his office.

People in Cankiri accused the PKK of yesterday's attack, shouting "down with the PKK".

The Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, said: "If these terrorists think they can achieve anything with their banditry or save the person who has been encouraging them, they are wrong."

On Thursday a suspected Kurdish suicide bomber killed herself and wounded three others in the south-eastern city of Batman. Earlier this week the PKK's political wing said the rebels would extend their war for autonomy.

Islands warn 'bully' Britain

By Phil Davison
Latin America Correspondent

CARIBBEAN LEADERS have criticised what they consider Britain's "bullying tactics" in trying to persuade them to abolish the death penalty. They reportedly warned Whitehall against "further interference" in a White Paper on Britain's dependent territories due to be published later this month.

At a closed-door summit meeting in the former Dutch colony of Surinam, nine Caribbean government chiefs backed executions as a necessary deterrent to a surging wave of mostly drug-related crime crime on the islands, sources said. Polls show the death penalty is highly popular throughout the Caribbean.

The leaders at the summit approved plans to set up a new Caribbean Supreme Court to bypass Britain's Privy Council, which retains overall juridical power in most countries of the region including those long independent. The court could be in place by the end of the year, summit sources said.

The leaders criticised the Privy Council for blocking several executions. In the former British Caribbean colonies alone – with a population of 5 million – there are about 250 prisoners on death row.

Seven nations – Trinidad, Jamaica, Haiti, St Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Guyana and Surinam – threatened to pull out of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which has also blocked executions in the region after prisoners appealed.

The US dispute with Europe over bananas was threatening the economies of several islands, turning more and more farmers towards drug cultivation or trafficking. That was putting more drugs on the streets of the islands, adding to the upward spiral of crime, they said.

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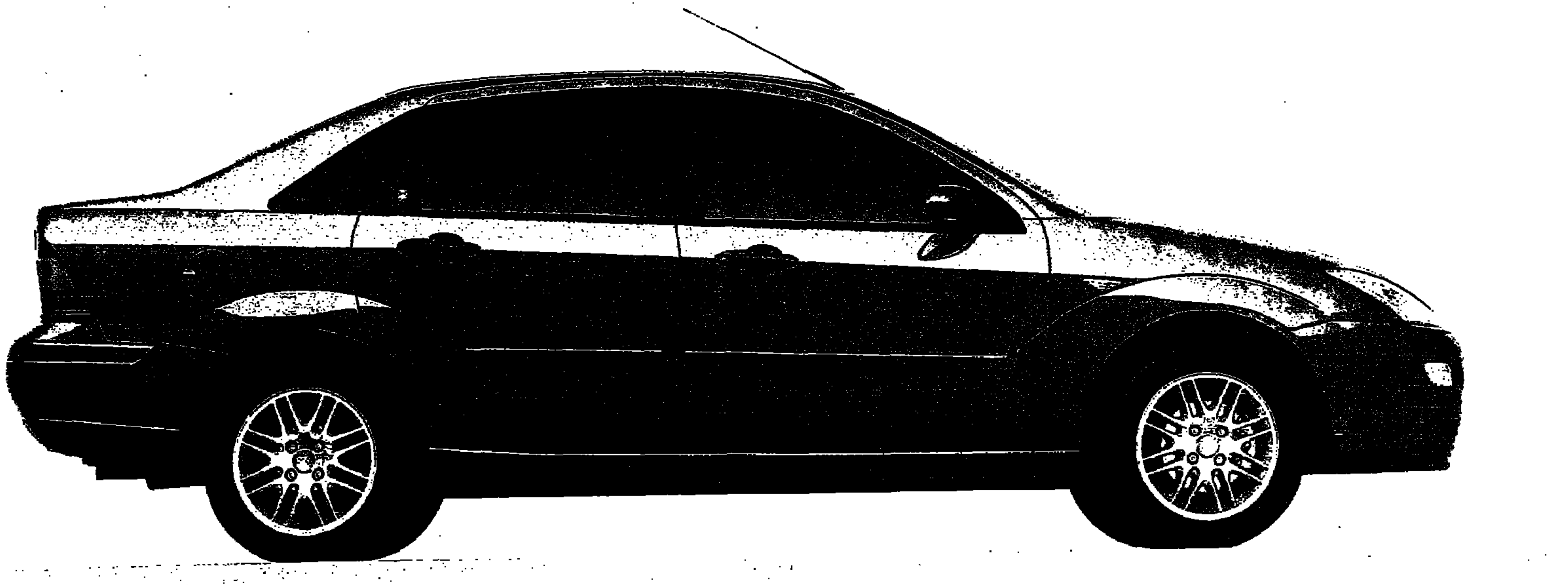

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Holy warriors seek deadly miracles

THERE WAS a miracle on the island of Ambon last week, on the black Monday morning when the police opened fire on the worshippers in Ahuru.

Haji Muhammed Jusuf Ely, secretary of the Muslim emergency task force, was not there, but he has no doubts about what happened. "I heard it myself from the imam, Haji Hussein," he says, in his office in Al Fatah, the great green mosque in the centre of Ambon town. "We have eyewitnesses."

As in all matters connected to this conflict, Muslim and Christian bystanders bear witness to different stories, but what is certain is that a terrible battle between Christians and Muslims took place at Ahuru in which three worshippers at the mosque died. "The imam was in the middle of it," says Haji Jusuf Ely, "and there were Christian police on either side. Captain L.S" – he names the man – "had a Colt 45 and he fired it directly at Haji Hussein.

"The chamber revolved – click,click, click – and the bullets came out. But the bullets did not strike him. God helped him, because God protects his people." Whatever the truth about the bullet-proof imam, it was an entirely appropriate moment for divine intervention. For it was then, at Ahuru, that the situation in Ambon changed irrevocably from a bitter local outbreak of communal violence into a fledgling holy war.

Fourteen hundred miles away in Jakarta, hundreds of

By Richard Lloyd Parry
in Ambon, Indonesia

Muslims marched yesterday, as they had the previous morning, chanting for an Islamic jihad in defence of the Muslims of Ambon. "If Abri [the Indonesian armed forces] cannot act properly most Islamic people are ready to go to war in Ambon", read one placard. On the island itself, Muslim clerics have stopped short of formally declaring a jihad, which remains "the last straw", according to Haji Jusuf Ely. "But when we have no other choices, that is what we must do.

"It would be the end of peace talks and the end of compromise," he says. "Everyone who can carry weapons must go to fight. Kill or be killed. We do not yet call for a jihad, but there is jihad in our hearts." What began six weeks ago as a fight between a minibus driver and his passenger, and spread into street battles involving young Ambonese, has transformed itself into an intractable religious conflict, in which loyalties are determined by religion alone and murder and destruction have divine sanction.

In the past two days an appearance of calm has returned to Ambon, but few believe that it will hold for long. "However many troops come," says Jusuf Ely, "they will not be enough if between the two communities there is not peace."

It is not only Muslims who speak of holy war. Jonas Pessireiron, a plump, moustached civil servant in his fifties, should be the kind of person with everything to lose from the conflict. On the wall of his house are family photographs and a framed poster bearing a pious Christian verse. But nestling in the umbrella stand is a parang – a machete-like sword – and in the back are home-made spears, home-made slings and even a home-made gun. Mr Pessireiron (not his real name) talks not of a jihad, but of a crusade. "It is in the nature of religion that sacrifices are made," he says. "If you die in this holy war, you die in the name of Christ, and if you kill, you kill also in the name of Christ."

Muslim demonstrators in Jakarta yesterday, condemning the failure of the military to prevent violence in Ambon *Reuters*

To the visiting outsider, it is impossible to judge who started all this, and who is most at fault. Maluku province, the modern name for what was once called the Spice Islands, has the largest Christian population in Indonesia – 800,000 out of 2 million in the province as a whole, and a 58 per cent majority in the town of Ambon. Christians complain that, despite their numbers, they are deprived of political power and discriminated against by the civil service and central government. Muslims insist that the Christians are trying to drive them out: without doubt, vicious acts of murder and destruction have been committed by both sides.

In Nania, a village on the airport road, local Christians point to a whitewashed wall that still bears a splatter of fading bloodstains from the 61-year-old priest, Paulus Thiyessen, who was cut down by Muslims as he tried to prevent them from burning his church. That was on 20 January, the day after the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, when many Muslims swept down from their villages, burning Christian settlements on the way.

Thirty-five Christian houses were burnt in the neighbouring village of Negeri Lama – but a far greater number of Muslim households were put to the torch in retaliation. "We have always lived so peacefully with our Muslim brothers," says Herman Siwalette, a local fisherman, who now sleeps with his family in a refugee camp, and returns by day to rebuild his house. But Haji Jusuf Ely insists the Muslims were returning to their homes, and that they were provoked and attacked by the Christians as they passed.

Compared with other outbreaks of unrest, in other corners of Indonesia, there has been little conventional crime.

In Jakarta last May, hundreds of people died when they were trapped in multi-storey shopping centres that were looted then put to the torch. But, apart from a few broken windows, the giant Ambon Plaza in the centre of town is untouched. There is a strange, twisted purity about the troubles here that is almost fearful.

"I order my people not to kill women and old men and not to shoot first." says Jusuf Ely. "Never kill somebody who has surrendered, but protect your religion. If somebody burnt your house, killed your wife and children and grandchildren – can you forget it? Can you? You can never forget it – you are human. You can never forget."

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Sri Lanka shamed by mass graves

By Peter Popham
in Delhi

THE SRI LANKA government took the first step yesterday towards investigating atrocities alleged to have been committed by soldiers against Tamil civilians, when an aircraft carrying forensic scientists, government officials and journalists was flown to what is said to be the site of a mass grave in the northern peninsula of Jaffna.

At the village of Chemmani on the outskirts of Jaffna city, the investigators took soil samples to satisfy themselves that the ground had not been recently disturbed. The presiding magistrate told reporters that after the forensic report is presented, before the end of March, he would announce a date for the digging of the area.

As many as 300 bodies are said to have been disposed of in a mass grave in the area between 1995 and 1997. The investigation that began yesterday may ultimately force the government, which has been unwilling to investigate the charges, to admit responsibility in the deaths and disappearances. Amnesty International, the human rights group, claims 600 people disappeared from the peninsula during this period.

Although the rebel Tamil Tigers are most likely to reap propaganda benefits if the atrocities prove to be true, they are the ones delaying the proceedings. They demanded the courts in Jaffna shut down or face dire consequences. The courts duly did so yesterday, posting notices that they would not reopen for three months. The Tigers do not want the charges investigated by local courts but by human rights groups.

The alleged atrocities date from after the time in late 1995 when tens of thousands of government troops swarmed into the Jaffna peninsula in Operation Riviresa (Sunshine).

The talk of a mass grave emerged last July. A soldier, Somaratne Rajapakse, told the court that sentenced him to death for murdering a Tamil schoolgirl that hundreds of Tamils, mostly young men, had been murdered and disposed of in mass graves. He said he was prepared to identify the graves.

"We know that some people were buried there," said Imdrani Selvarajah, whose 19-year-old son disappeared after being arrested by the military in 1996. "We want to find out the truth for ourselves."

IN BRIEF

New faultline under Los Angeles

SCIENTISTS IN Los Angeles have pinpointed a new seismic fault running directly beneath the city capable of producing a devastating earthquake along a 25-mile line of heavily built-up metropolitan sprawl. Scientists writing in the journal *Science* named it the Puente Hills fault.

Bonn backs cable car families

THE GERMAN government said it would lend support to compensation claims against the United States raised by the families of seven Germans killed when a plane sliced through cable car lines in Italy. A pilot was acquitted at a court martial on Thursday of causing the deaths last year.

Yeltsin's sacking call condemned

THE RUSSIAN businessman Boris Berezovsky defended himself yesterday against President Boris Yeltsin's drive to have him removed from his job as secretary to the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mr Berezovsky said Mr Yeltsin's efforts harked back to Soviet days.

Orthodox Jew stabbed by Arab

AN ARAB stabbed an ultra-Orthodox Jew yesterday outside a gate to the walled Old City of Jerusalem, seriously wounding him, police said. The attacker of Aharon Lefkowitz, 50, got away.

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Clinton's envoy is snubbed by Serbs

By Rupert Cornwell

YUGOSLAVIA again challenged the West yesterday by refusing to allow an entry visa to Bob Dole, the former US Senator, as the leading powers stepped up their efforts to nail down a peace agreement in Kosovo before renewed fighting rips the province apart.

With senior Kosovo Albanians indicating that they are ready to sign an interim peace deal before talks resume at a military base in Normandy in nine days, the West believes it at last has the opportunity to place Belgrade before a choice it has so far been able to avoid – of either signing the take-it-or-leave-it deal, or having it imposed by the force of Nato arms.

But the decision to force Mr Dole, the former Republican presidential candidate and latest in a line of high-level mediators to the region, to hold his scheduled talks with Albanian representatives in the Macedonian capital of Skopje was a clear sign that President Slobodan Milosevic has no intention of folding his hand just yet.

US officials said Mr Dole was still hopeful of crossing into Kosovo, which is a part of Serbia and therefore Yugoslavia, and was in contact with the Yugoslav consulate in Skopje. But Belgrade is known to consider him to be irredeemably biased in favour of Kosovo's Albanians.

A Serbian judge was quoted yesterday as ordering the immediate arrest of Hasim Thaqi, who emerged at the previous round of peace talks in Rambouillet, France, as a key spokesman for the Kosovo Liberation Army. The Contact Group peace plan, which the KLA is coming round to after much hesitation, provides for autonomy – but no guarantee of the independence demanded by both the military and political leaders of the overwhelming Albanian majority of its two million inhabitants.

As Mr Dole waited in Macedonia, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, announced an unexpected stop-over in London today, to discuss Kosovo with the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, the co-chairman of the peace talks. A once mooted visit by Mr Cook himself to Belgrade appears to have been ruled out.

Diplomats said Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy who clinched the Bosnia settlement in 1995, may travel himself to try to persuade Mr Milosevic to accept the proposed Kosovo deal – including the deployment of up to 30,000 Nato and possibly Russian peace-keepers in the province.

The urgent need for a solution was underlined yesterday with shelling by Yugoslav army tanks of the village of Nekovce, south-west of Kosovo's capital, Pristina. Hundreds of villagers were reported to be fleeing.

In a separate move but one that might also increase Serb/Western tensions, Carlos Westendorp, the leading international peace co-ordinator in Bosnia, removed the Serb Republic's hardline president, Nikola Poplasen, on the basis that he was obstructing implementation of the 1995 Dayton peace accord.

Adelina Ismaili, the current Miss Kosovo and a pop star best known in her homeland for the hit song 'I want to make an army with Ibrahim Rugova' *Andrew Testa*

'My weapon is my voice, not a gun'

By Emma Daly
in Pristina

A FEMINIST beauty queen and a rapper who abhors violence – in Kosovo, the unusual is to be expected. Adelina Ismaili, 20, and Memli, 19, are two of the brightest musical stars on the Kosovo Albanian scene. But neither is much interested in singing about the war that has engulfed their country for the past year.

Adelina won the Miss Kosovo title in 1997 and there hasn't been a contest since, but she is better known for her hit single, "I want to make an army with Ibrahim Rugova". The glossy photos in which she is scantily dressed and definitely sultry might give the impression that she is a bimbo.

In fact Adelina is intelligent, charming and an ardent feminist. She recorded the song in early 1997, when Mr Rugova was still the pacifist leader of the main Kosovo Albanian party, the LDK. Since then he has been sidelined by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

"It was popular before [the fighting started] because people were really boiling. When the song became a hit, I knew something would happen here," she says. "I like Rugova. I was a fan of his and I still am, because he has chosen the best path for peace, but there is no dialogue with Serbia, so people saw they had to fight to win something for themselves."

Memli, a gentle, ponytailed figure, has found it almost impossible to get work since the conflict started. "I feel my music is the job I have to do for this land and these people," he says. "My weapon is not a gun, my weapon is a microphone but I will use a gun if it's needed." He sits in a room where posters of his band, Rhythm of the Streets, compete for wall space with Leonardo DiCaprio. "That's my sister's stuff," he explains hastily.

Both he and Adelina write about everyday life. Their songs are of relationships, money, friends, as well as the war. He is probably the more sentimental of the two. A Serbian singer re-recorded Adelina's Rugova hit with new lyrics. "It was something about love. It was stupid, like all their lyrics," she says grimacing, offering as an example of Serbian pop music: "Run away my darling, My father is armed."

Her anger is directed not only at Serbs. She can be trenchant on the the machismo of the average Kosovo Albanian.

"The first war I would fight here is to give women their rights," she says, describing a society in which husbands can take lovers while wives have only their chores. "All the family depends on the woman, yet she is nothing. That's what I hate." Adelina grew up among women. Like hundreds of thousands of other Kosovar men, her father moved abroad after 1989, when Serbia stripped Kosovo of its autonomy and fired most Albanians from their jobs in the state sector.

"In the KLA everything is different," she says. "There are many fighters who are girls. The commanders are young, in their twenties, so they understand life as it is. They allow their girlfriends to fight."

Despite her success – and Memli's – neither has made the kind of money they might expect in the West. Royalties for radio play are non-existent and, as second-class inhabitants in the Serbian state, they have no access to the Yugoslav courts.

Adelina lives next door to a Serb who fires out of the window when he is drunk. She can no longer party after dark – because of a spate of grenade attacks on cafés, most Albanians stay home at night. "We are an ignored people, we have no rights," Adelina says.

But Memli's dominant tone is one of optimism. It is reflected even in his song "All the bad things around us". It may open with the wail of police sirens but it ends on a defiant note: "Tomorrow the sun will shine, even here."

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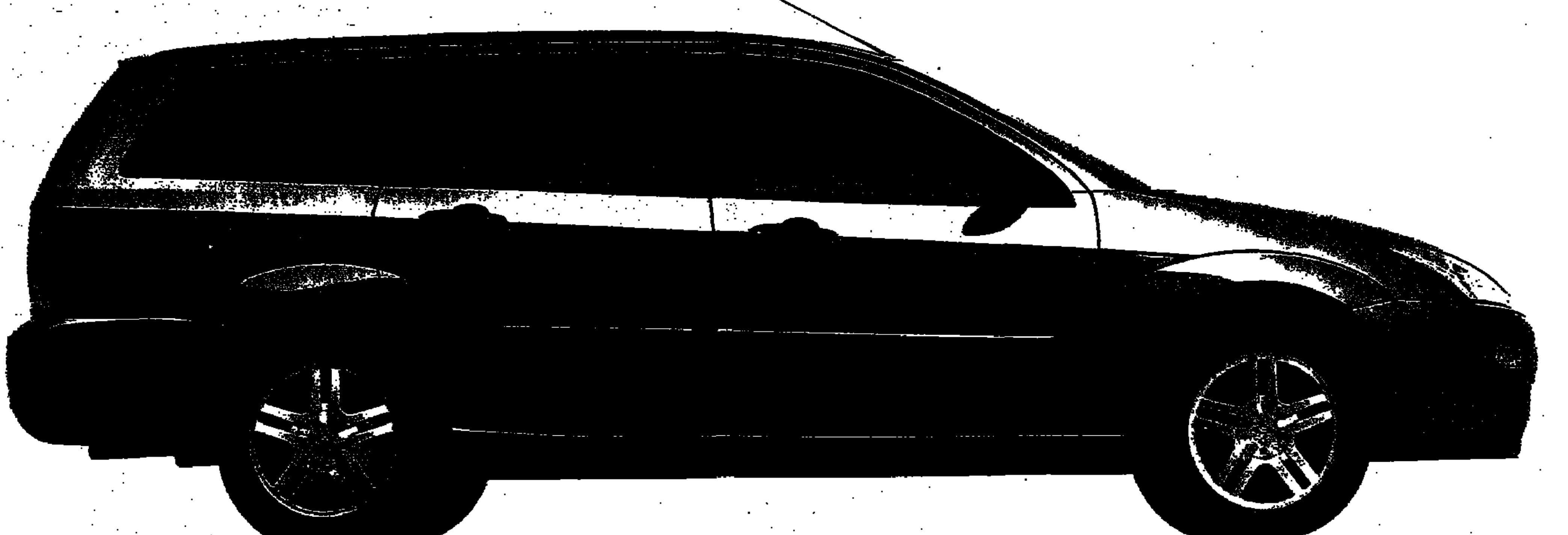

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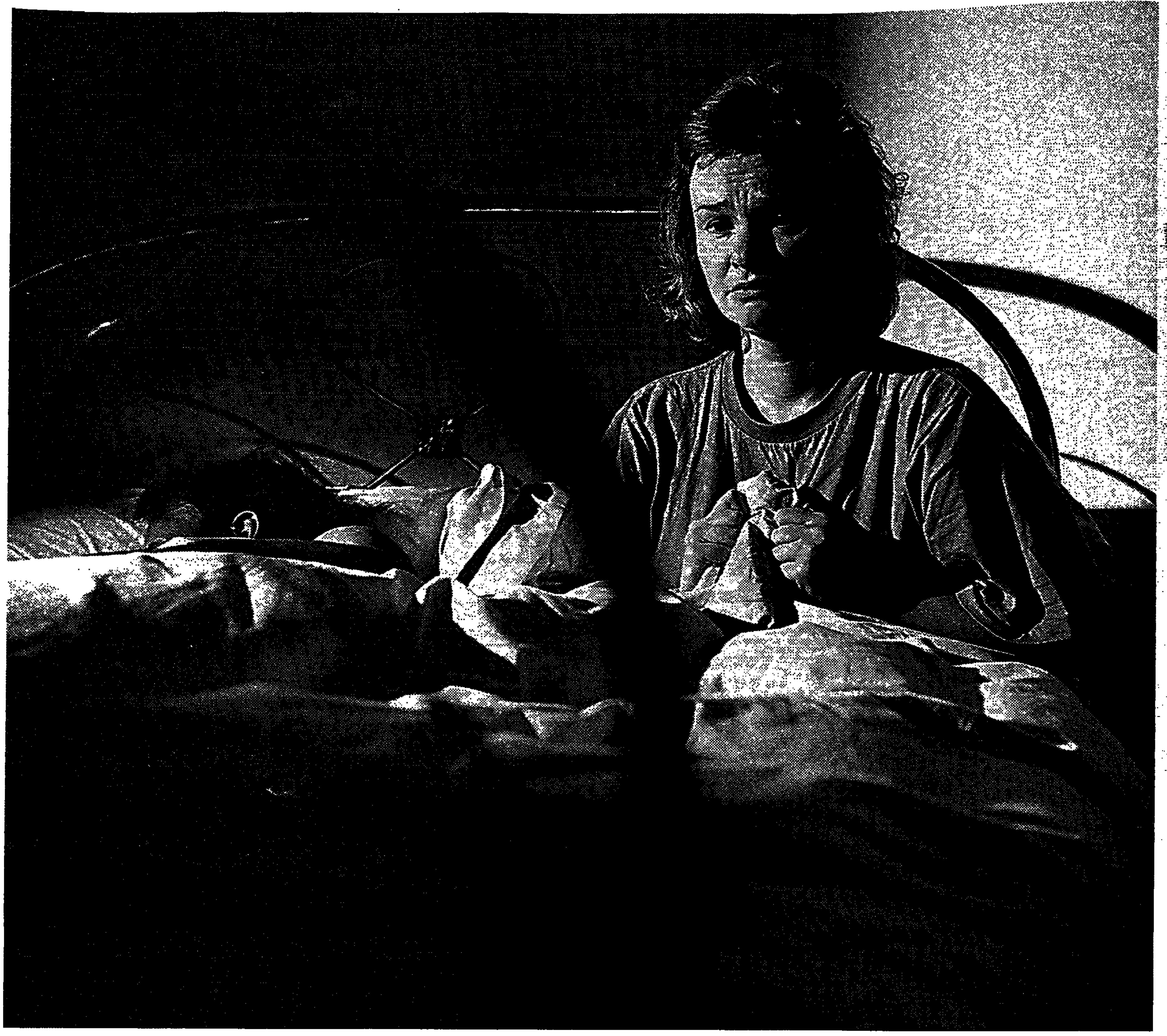

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The former West German chancellor Willy Brandt (left) with his aide Günther Guillaume, who was a spy. Brandt resigned in 1974 over the affair, considered the finest hour of the Stasi, whose spymaster, Markus Wolf, is seen (right) in Düsseldorf during his 1993 espionage trial

Ex-mistress accuses Dumas over bribes

By John Lichfield
in Paris

THE EX-MISTRESS of the former French foreign minister Roland Dumas has turned on her long-time friend and accused him of taking bribes – including a £1,100 pair of shoes – from France's biggest company.

After refusing for months to co-operate, despite being placed in detention, Christine Deviers-Joncour has written to two investigative judges and accused Mr Dumas of taking inducements from the Elf oil company in the early 1990s.

Contradicting her previous testimony, she said it was Mr Dumas who got her a job with the company, and that while he was foreign minister he accepted presents, bought with Elf's cash, including the shoes and 12 ancient Greek statuettes worth £30,000. The judges are investigating whether Mr Dumas was paid by Elf to drop his opposition to the sale of frigates to Taiwan, a deal brokered by the company.

The allegations make the position of Mr Dumas – head of the constitutional council, which among other things judges the alleged wrongdoings of politicians – virtually untenable.

The latest twist in the case is also uncomfortable for President Jacques Chirac, even though Mr Dumas, as a Socialist, is a political opponent. Mr Chirac is the only person who can bring pressure on Mr Dumas to quit his present post. He has adamantly refused to do so.

Last year the constitutional council, under the chairmanship of Mr Dumas, tagged an unsolicited ruling on to the end of another judgment. In effect, it forbade the French judiciary from investigating the alleged criminal activity of a sitting president. Investigations of the illegal financing of Mr Chirac's party, the neo-Gaullist RPR, have been creeping up the ranks towards the President in recent months.

The Dumas affair is a small corner of a much larger investigation of alleged influence-trafficking and embezzlement at Elf.

Ms Deviers-Joncour, well-known to be the mistress of Mr Dumas, was given an ill-defined job by the company in 1990. She received a high salary, a luxurious apartment and a limitless credit card.

Despite being placed in preventive detention, she refused to co-operate with the judicial investigation of Elf's affairs. She told the judges that Mr Dumas had not rigged her job and had not accepted a centime of Elf's cash.

Her decision to reverse this testimony – both in a letter to the investigating judges and in an interview with *Paris Match* – comes after a series of slighting and dismissive remarks made by Mr Dumas. Ms Deviers-Joncour infuriated the former foreign minister by describing her long relationship with him in a book entitled *The Whore of the Republic*.

US keeps its Stasi secrets locked up

By Imre Karacs
in Bonn

THE GERMANS have the lock, the Americans the key to the mysteries of the Communist world's most formidable spying machine. When the two sides come together to compare notes, thousands of former agents will be unmasked.

So ran the theory. But the clues to the secrets of the Stasi, the East German secret police, are separated by a vaster distance than the breadth of an ocean. The CIA's pile of Stasi documents is in its vaults in Washington, while the recently decoded files to which it corresponds are kept in Berlin.

Never the twain may meet. What had seemed like a simple jigsaw puzzle has turned in recent weeks into a diplomatic nightmare. For Germany's new government, determined to assert itself on the world stage, the bickering has revealed that the US still refuses to recognise Europe's most powerful country as anything other than an American client.

The CIA never had much respect for the West German security service (BND), whose spies were regarded by their US bosses as low in morale and intelligence and lacking initiative. There is no evidence to suggest BND agents found out much about East Germany or captured many Stasi spies.

Under Markus Wolf, head of the Stasi's foreign intelligence operations, Communist agents rummaged through the West's secrets at will. Nato's battle plans and logistics would find their way to East Berlin hidden in train lavatories. Against that the West could muster nothing, not even, for 20 years, a photograph of its chief adversary.

Nearly 10 years after the fall of the Wall, it is still a matter of conjecture how thoroughly the Stasi penetrated the West. The resignation of the West German chancellor Willy Brandt in 1974 after the unmasking of his close colleague, Günther Guillaume, as a spy, is regarded as the Stasi's finest hour. But allegations persist that there was a second highly placed Social Democrat politician on the Wolf payroll.

It should not be too difficult to find out. Last month investigators in Berlin revealed they had cracked the code to the Stasi's databank. More than 10,000 magnetic tapes storing the Stasi computers' secrets are being processed.

The Germans have said they are happy to share this goldmine with their allies. Chancellor Gerhard Schröder sent his fixer, Bodo Hombach, to Washington last month, and Mr Schröder has tried to get President Bill Clinton involved in the matter. For the German breakthrough, useful as it may be to obtain a complete picture of the Stasi operation, lacks one ingredient: the list of Stasi agents.

The Americans have that, and mightily proud of it they are too. They acquired their half of the puzzle amid the confusion of Communism's collapse. Operation Rosewood, as the sting is called, was "one of the highest points of the Cold War," according to the CIA's public relations department.

In fact, the Cold War had long been over, and the CIA used nothing more cunning than its cheque-book.

Operation Rosewood was a simple business transaction between the Americans and renegade Soviet agents out to make a fast buck. Uncle Sam paid $1.5m for the lot, and spirited it away under the noses of the BND. Now they will not let go of their treasure. Mr Hombach was sent packing. Mr Schröder was given the brush-off. Until a solution can be found, Markus Wolf's agents can sleep soundly.

Gaddafi in new Lockerbie talks

By Alistair Lyon

LIBYA'S LEADER, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, starting a week-long trip to Egypt amid signs of a possible breakthrough in the Lockerbie dispute, drove towards Cairo in a cavalcade of some 200 vehicles yesterday.

Egypt's Foreign Minister, Amr Moussa, said in Malta he expected a solution "within the next few weeks" to the lengthy conflict pitting Libya against Britain and the United States.

"There are great prospects for optimism in this question. There are positive signs from both sides," said Mr Moussa at the end of a two-day European-Mediterranean foreign ministers' meeting in Malta's capital, Valletta.

The United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on Libya in 1992 for failing to hand over for trial two Libyans accused of planting a bomb on the Pan Am airliner that exploded over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Mr Moussa said the dispute would figure high in talks between Colonel Gaddafi and President Hosni Mubarak when they meet at the Qubba presidential palace today.

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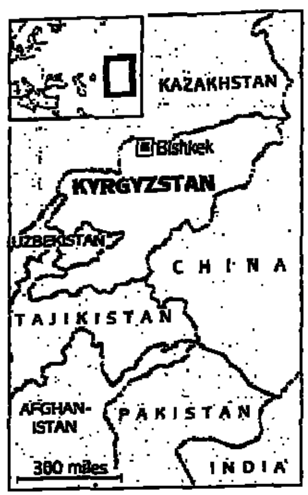
Plight of Kyrgyzstan brides who are kidnapped, raped and abandoned

BY SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS
in Bishkek

Maja (left) is rescued by her mother (centre) as the mother of her kidnapper looks on. *Bride-stealing is alive and well in Central Asia*



SANJAL SITS in the kitchen chain smoking. "It's going to be the happiest day of my life", he says, nervously. "You look as if *you're preparing to go to a* funeral," his friend Aziz teases him. Within a few hours, the two boys are planning to kidnap a bride for Sanjal.

The bridegroom, a sophisticated 21-year-old law student dressed in a Boss jacket and Levi jeans, says he had no choice. It is the tradition in Kyrgyzstan. The youngest son *must look after his parents.* They are in their sixties and want him married.

He is undeterred that the penalty for bride-stealing in the former Soviet republic is a two-year prison sentence. "The girls' families never bring charges", he says. But, as an educated, good-looking young man, why doesn't he simply ask the girl? "I've only ever seen her at university," he replies. "I've never spoken to her. She may have a boyfriend for all I know. She may be in love. She might say no. I have to kidnap her."

The tradition of bride stealing is alive and well in Kyr*gyzstan. It evolved in the* days of the nomadic tribes, which roamed the country before Stalin collectivised rural life.

In those pre-Revolutionary *days,* a bride could cost as much as five horses and a lusty young man found it more expedient to snatch the girl of his choice, literally swinging her on to his saddle. The custom thrived even in the Soviet era and it still suits the climate of economic hardship that followed the Central Asian republic's independence in 1991.

But notions such as "assertiveness" and "empowerment" favoured by feminists in the West are catching on among the sisters in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek. A centre dealing with rape, domestic violence and bride stealing has received more than a thousand calls since it opened a year ago.

Cowed and tearful young women come knocking at the door to attend therapy sessions delivered by women who were themselves kidnapped in Soviet times but have since learnt the language of sexual emancipation from their American sponsors.

It is too late, though, for young women such as Gulmira, 19, who tells the volunteer therapist how she was violently kidnapped when she was 16 and then raped and abandoned.

She can barely utter the words and will clearly need many more empowerment sessions before she could bring herself to look an abductor in the eye and defy what he considers is his right.

For the boys, it is all a bit of a lark. Doran Nuriyev, Krygzstan's most celebrated pop star, kidnapped his wife 18 months ago. Over vodka *and cigarettes* in his dressing room after a show, he and his best man (who, in Kyrgyzstan, also doubles up as kidnap accomplice) reminisce with glee. "I consider myself an bit of an expert," says partner-in-crime, Sergei Myktebek. "I've done lots of them but it can still turn out tricky. Doran's girl scratched me and I've still got the scars but we enjoyed it," he says, laughing.

"It would be great if it became legal." Doran agrees. He says he feels sorry that he did not allow his wife to finish her *university education,* "but we're happy now and she and the baby inspire my music".

Meanwhile, Sanjal's parents are excited about their boy's big day. His mother, Norguz, is quite matter-of-fact about what they have instructed him to do and she says she is looking forward to "10, no 12 grandchildren" from the young couple. Various daughters and daughters-in-law are busy preparing the house and the wedding banquet. The whole village has been invited to the wedding party.

Norguz reaches into an *ancient leather trunk for the red* crushed-velvet dress that her three daughters-in-law wore after they were kidnapped by her older sons and the "platok", the ritual headscarf.

According to custom, she explains, it is only necessary for the intended bride to cross the threshold of a boy's house and for the mother-in-law to cover her head with the headscarf for her honour to be compromised and for the marriage to become a *fait accompli.*

After this, it is left only for the local mullah to be summoned *to bless the couple. Astonish*ingly, given the regularity with which kidnaps take place, the girl selected by Sanjal, 19-year-old Maja, has agreed to come along with a friend to a birthday party *at his house. Unsus*pecting, she walks across the threshold and is greeted by the women in the family who hover like predators.

Norguz, a formidable woman, lunges at the tiny girl with the headscarf. Maja screams and starts to fight like a caged animal, holding her hands above her head to stop *the headscarf from* covering here head. The women are unperturbed, they all say "come on, it is always like this", "It happened to us all", "You'll be happy." Maja, now hysterical, demands that someone goes back to the city to fetch her mother. Norguz agrees: "Your mother *will tell you it is alright,* it is our custom."

At this point, it becomes clear to me that this is much more sinister than the "courtship ritual" I had been led to expect. I intervene but I am brushed *aside by the family.* I then order a car which brings Maja's mother to the house.

Half an hour later, she storms in. "No, it's not our custom," she yells at Norguz. "My daughter is finishing her university education", and she gathers up her weeping daughter.

Sanjal is mortified. The "happiest day" of his life is not turn*ing out as planned,* Norguz and her daughters, surrounded by the prepared banquet, are [illegible] shock. They look helplessly as the car *carrying Maja and* her mother races out of the village.

Perhaps those lessons in empowerment and assertion are catching on, after all.

Sue Lloyd-Roberts' film Bridestealing in Kyrgyzstan will be shown on BBC2's 'Correspondent' programme at 7.30 tonight

Easing the pain of exiles' life in limbo

WEEK IN THE LIFE

DAISY DOOE, AID WORKER, THAILAND

Daisy Dooe overseeing operations on the fabric production line. Every stage of the process helps to keep alive traditional skills *Sun-Herald, Sydney*

THE DRY season in Sangkhlaburi, western Thailand, has brought a steady stream of displaced and desperate people from across the border with Burma. They come to join the 7,000 or so already here. They are illegal immigrants, caught between one of the world's most repressive regimes and the dead-end life of a refugee camp.

Ten years ago, Daisy Dooe was one of the first to arrive, after her home was attacked and burnt down by Burmese troops. Today she operates as an independent aid worker, helping her compatriots to *hold body and soul together in* the limbo that has become their home.

The smoke of a hundred fires is mingling with Monday evening's mist over the hillsides when a man comes, tentatively, into Daisy's yard. As he sits on the Burmese teak chair on her balcony, his shoulders convulse uncontrollably.

The man's 14-year-old daughter lies ill, he explains tearfully, and he fears it is malaria. Over the past year, a hundred displaced children have contracted the disease, and 21 have died. Daisy finds him an extra blanket from her emergency supply, and, somehow, she finds him some money to help him with the bill for medical treatment.

The following day brings a reminder of happier times. Some girls in Daisy's pantry are preparing crabs for smoking. These delicacies have turned up unexpectedly. They are a gift, Daisy explains, from a family she helped in Sangkhlaburi who later went back to Burma with a promise to send her "nice things" to show their gratitude. Daisy's culinary fame dates from the old days in Three Pagodas, a town just over the border in Burma, where she ran Daisy's Revolutionary Restaurant – slogan: "Better Fed than Red".

In those days, the frontier crossing was controlled by the Karen National Liberation Army, the strongest rebel force *opposing the Burmese regime* and indefatigable fighters for autonomy within their own ethnic homeland of Kawthoolei. Today, every mouthful of contraband crab will carry with it the taste of freedom, alongside such Burmese delicacies as *nga pi gyaw*, prawn paste fried with onion, dried chillies and garlic.

◆

There are practical ways to help the struggle. Sharing Daisy's backyard with 15 chickens and nine dogs is an entire production line of men and women, creating the most stunningly colourful array of fabrics. Every stage of the process helps to keep alive *traditional* skills.

Today's task is to boil the skin of fruit to dye the cloth. Men pore over designs sketched out on pieces of paper before looms clatter into action. They sell the finished product to tourists.

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Daisy's fellow Karen are not the only ethnic group fighting the regime. There are also the Mon, and many ordinary Burmese, too. In the past, ethnic divisions between the groups in Burma hampered the struggle against the military junta, but Daisy feels she is helping to weave a new collective identity among the exiles.

She hopes it will contribute *to the solidarity that Burma's* peoples will need to build a peaceful and democratic future: "Here, we must all work together and look after each other," she says.

Thursday finds Daisy exhausted and suffering from toothache. Roused before dawn to help a Karen man at the hospital, she hears a terrible tale. The man was driven into the jungle fearing a round-up of illegal immigrants and being sent *to a refugee camp.* There he was attacked by a bear foraging for food. "His scalp was bitten half off," Daisy recalls *with a shudder.*

◆

Later she convenes a *women's group to discuss* how they can help poor Burmese girls held in Sangkhlaburi's brothel. "These are innocent, ignorant girls," she explains. "Some of them did not know about condoms. I had to go to the brothel and show them how to use them. Me, an old lady! It was embarrassing."

Among the displaced and destitute who come to Daisy's door are a growing number of people with HIV or Aids. But *most are just victims of state*-sponsored violence.

◆

Zarni Thway, a veteran of the students' uprising in the Burmese capital, Rangoon, in March 1988, now helps as a *"barefoot doctor", applying* his rudimentary medical skills. Daisy has equipped him with a stethoscope and blood-pressure testing kit, donated by hospital doctors in Britain. She takes him to see a woman of 60 who says she left her village to escape "forced-portering" – the cruel practice of the Burmese troops, who force civilians to march through the jungle carrying ammunition on their way to wage war.

The woman is suffering from hypertension but her political awareness is in rude health. "Some day soon," she *declares,* "Aung San Suu Kyi [Burma democracy leader] will come to power and there will be democracy. Then, I will go back to Burma."

JAKE LYNCH

Vatican 'seeks ties with China'

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

THE VATICAN appears to be moving towards re-establishing ties with China, a move aimed at ending decades of isolation and persecution of the Catholic church there. A report in yesterday's Taiwan-based *United Daily News states that the* Vatican is on the verge of announcing the establishment of diplomatic ties with China, which were severed in 1957.

Although the Catholic church in China encounters considerable official opposition and faces a government-sponsored rival church that does not acknowledge the authority of the Vatican, both *sides have been* feeling their way towards reconciliation for some time.

If it comes to fruition, as this report suggests, it will be a body blow to Taiwan. Last month Jason Hu, the Taiwanese foreign minister, *rushed* to the Vatican for talks with Rome's most senior foreign affairs officials. He sought assurances that ties *with his* country *would not* be broken.

Although Mr Hu put a brave face on the meeting, the Vatican was non-committal in announcing its outcome. Taiwan retains diplomatic ties with 28 countries, most of which are tiny. In Europe it recently established relations with Macedonia but the Vatican is its only other European ally.

Catholic sources in Hong Kong and the United States say the Catholic Church in China is *growing* and *now has six to ten* million members.

Meanwhile, the Vatican is also trying to establish better relations with Vietnam, *Asia's* second biggest communist country. There are about eight million Catholics in Vietnam, making it the largest *Asian* Catholic community aside from the Philippines.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Women take top jobs at Goldman

GOLDMAN SACHS, the US investment bank, yesterday appointed women to its most senior management ranks for the first time. The firm promoted Robin Neustein and Leslie Tortora to its powerful management committee, which was created in the wake of last year's demotion of Jon Corzine, the bank's then co-chief executive. Ms Neustein comes from the firm's investment banking division, while Ms Tortora oversees technology developments.

Limelight takes direct line

LIMELIGHT, the Moben kitchens and Dophin bathrooms group run by chief executive Andrew Stanway (left), is to follow the success of its direct sales brand Kitchen Direct by launching equivalent services in the bedroom and bathroom sectors. Bedroom Direct will be launched on Monday with Bathroom Direct following within a year.

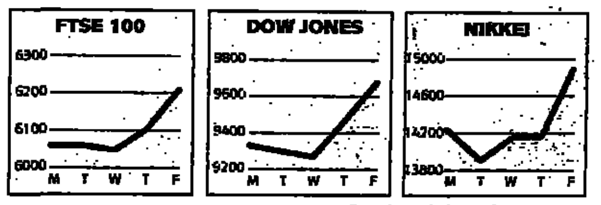
Limelight announced the plans as it unveiled its full-year figures, which showed rising sales and a return to profitability. It recorded pre-tax profits of £8.1m last year compared to a £12.3 million loss for 1997.

No final dividend was proposed but the company is planning a maiden payout at the interim stage. Limelight announced last month that it was in talks that could lead to an offer but these broke down.

Kwik Save upgrading continues

SOMERFIELD is to accelerate its upgrading of the Kwik Save stores acquired last year after seeing rising sales in the outlets converted so far. Somerfield said sales at the 10 stores already converted to the Somerfield name had improved by 16 per cent from autumn to the end of February.

STOCK MARKETS

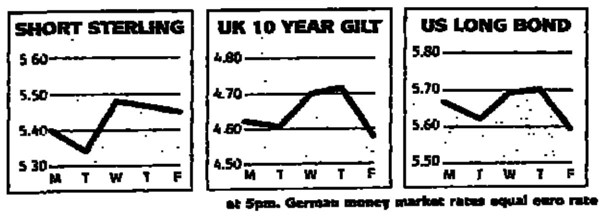


Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6205.50	104.10	1.71	6319.80	4599.20	2.59
FTSE 250	5348.40	33.60	0.63	5970.90	4247.60	3.15
FTSE 350	2944.30	44.60	1.54	2978.70	2210.40	2.67
FTSE All Share	2846.04	41.94	1.50	2886.52	2143.53	2.71
FTSE SmallCap	2304.40	15.00	0.66	2793.80	1834.40	3.52
FTSE Fledgling	1259.10	8.40	0.67	1517.10	1046.20	4.39
FTSE AIM	833.00	0.90	0.11	1146.90	761.30	1.14
FTSE Eurotop 100	2858.46	64.93	2.32	3079.27	2018.15	2.10
FTSE Eurotop 300	1241.28	26.72	2.20	1332.07	880.63	1.96
Dow Jones	9670.60	199.94	2.11	9647.96	7400.30	1.60
Nikkei	14894.00	710.55	5.01	17352.35	12787.90	0.95
Hang Seng	10241.12	328.36	3.31	11926.16	6544.79	3.42
Dax	4839.09	160.37	3.43	6217.83	3833.71	1.79
S&P 500	1268.72	21.79	1.75	1283.91	923.32	1.26
Nasdaq	2330.98	37.93	1.65	2533.44	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6371.70	102.29	1.63	7837.70	5320.90	1.66
Brazil Bovespa	9576.38	67.51	0.71	12339.14	4575.69	6.46
Belgium Bel20	3346.17	63.19	1.93	3713.21	2695.72	2.12
Amsterdam Exch	529.54	13.62	2.64	600.65	366.58	1.94
France CAC 40	4189.56	101.57	2.49	4404.94	2881.21	1.87
Milan MIB30	36367.00	1219.00	3.47	39170.00	24175.00	1.12
Madrid Ibex 35	10005.00	170.70	1.74	10989.80	6869.90	1.74
Irish Overall	5387.72	84.14	1.59	5581.70	3732.57	1.52
S Korea Comp	538.19	5.90	1.11	651.95	277.37	0.27
Australia ASX	2902.50	17.20	0.60	2948.70	2386.70	3.18

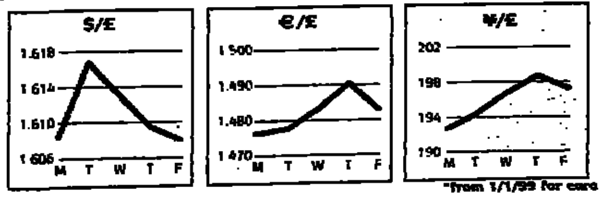
INTEREST RATES



at 5pm. German money market rates equal euro rate

	MONEY MARKET RATES				BOND YIELDS			
Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.49	-2.09	5.48	-2.12	4.58	-1.48	4.56	-1.47
US	5.03	-0.66	5.43	-0.38	5.29	0.49	5.59	0.48
Japan	0.18-	-0.57	0.21	-0.49	1.63	-0.23	2.69	0.20
Germany	3.10	-0.41	3.13	-0.67	4.02	-1.01	4.98	-0.64

CURRENCIES



*from 1/1/99 for euro

POUND	at 5pm	Change	*Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6080	+0.23c	1.6335
Euro	1.4826	-0.35c	1.4079
Yen	197.10	-¥1.35	208.60
£ index	102.40	-0.20	105.60

DOLLAR	at 5pm	Change	*Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6219	-0.09p	0.6122
Euro	0.9220	-15.80c	0.8573
Yen	122.55	-¥1.06	127.78
$ index	109.10	-0.60	109.00

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil ($)	10.59	-0.35	13.16
Gold ($)	288.45	0.20	293.40
Silver ($)	5.30	0.07	6.32

	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
RPI	163.40	2.40	159.57	Feb
Base Rates	5.50	7.25		

Oil at 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.4715
Austria (schillings)	19.74
Belgium (francs)	58.03
Canada ($)	2.3667
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8291
Denmark (kroner)	10.74
Finland (markka)	8.6137
France (francs)	9.4256
Germany (marks)	2.9047
Greece (drachma)	463.96
Hong Kong ($)	12.01
Ireland (punts)	1.1297
Indian (rupees)	61.40
Israel (shekels)	6.0045
Italy (lira)	2794
Japan (yen)	192.68
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8584
Malta (lira)	0.6137
Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.54
Netherlands (guilders)	3.1634
New Zealand ($)	2.9124
Norway (kroner)	12.40
Portugal (escudos)	286.89
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8578
Singapore ($)	2.6554
South Africa (rands)	9.5910
Spain (pesetas)	238.73
Sweden (kronor)	12.92
Switzerland (francs)	2.2974
Thailand (bahts)	55.41
Turkey (liras)	553182
USA ($)	1.5625

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Dow hits record high as interest rate fears recede

By Lea Paterson

THE US stock market hit a record high yesterday, after official figures on jobs and wage growth fuelled hopes that interest rates would be kept on hold.

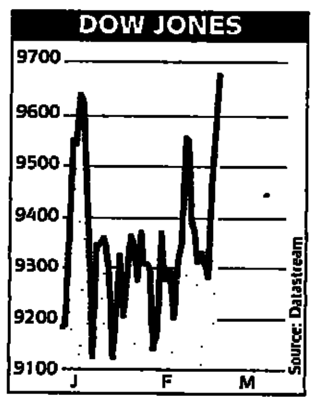
Virtually all the world's major financial markets closed higher on the back of the better-than-expected US non-farm payrolls data, which showed that the economy was continuing to add jobs without creating wage inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a new intra-day high of 9,680, and in London, the FTSE 100 closed 104.1 points higher at 6205.5. Earlier in Tokyo, stocks had put in their best one-day performance this year, helped by lower interest rates and optimism about the US jobs data, released after the Japanese market closed.

In the bond markets, US Treasuries posted their largest one-day gain in 18 months, while UK gilts also closed sharply higher.

In the currency markets, the dollar fell back from record highs against the euro, trading at $1.0824 by mid-afternoon in New York.

Neil Parker, economist at Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "It's a sigh of relief from the markets, which had been crossing their fingers and praying that the payroll numbers would not be too strong."



According to the US Labor Department, payrolls rose 275,000 in February, more than 30,000 higher than the consensus market forecast.

However, the market was cheered by the growth of average hourly earnings, which rose by just 0.1 per cent in February. This was substantially below both the January growth rate of 0.4 per cent and the consensus market forecast for February of 0.3 per cent.

Andrew Miligan at CGU Asset Management said: "It ties in with the view that disinflationary pressures and the recent turmoil have strongly encouraged companies to resist pressures to pay higher wages to attract labour."

The US economy, which is now enjoying its longest peacetime expansion on record, has added 1 million new jobs since November.

The service sector has benefited most from the surge in employment, with February seeing the largest rise in retail jobs for 11 years.

In manufacturing, however, things are less bright. Employment in the sector tumbled by 50,000 last month, contributing to the slight rise in the economy-wide unemployment rate. February's rate was 4.4 per cent, the Labor Department said, up from from 4.3 per cent in January.

According to analysts, the benign job market data makes it less likely the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at its next meeting on 30 March.

New figures on growth in the euro zone contrasted sharply with the buoyancy of the US economy. Eurostat said the euro zone economies grew by just 0.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, compared with 0.7 per cent in the third quarter.

Consumer spending in Europe held up according to the data, but export demand was very weak, falling by 1.4 per cent over the quarter.

A surprise fall in German prices, which dropped 0.5 per cent in January, underlined the benign outlook for inflation on the Continent.

Outlook, page 21

KKR takes a £94m stake in TI

By Andrew Verity

KOHLBERG Kravis Roberts, the New York-based buyout specialist, yesterday announced it was paying £94.4m for a 4.9 per cent stake in TI, the specialist engineering group, saying the stock was fundamentally undervalued.

Shares in TI jumped 8 per cent to 445p in response to the move, which took the form of a placing of new shares at Wednesday's closing price of 400p. Most engineering stocks rose in response, pushing up valuations by 1.22 per cent.

Henry R Kravis, one of Wall Street's best known whizz-kids, will join TI as a non-executive director. The company said there was a standstill agreement at 9.9 per cent, requiring KKR to get the permission of TI's management for further purchases.

Mr Kravis said: "TI is a company we have been watching with great interest since we undertook two transactions with them in the late 1980s. We have been very impressed with their clear strategy and the development of a global and successful business. We plan to work closely with them to help implement their acquisition plans."

Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of TI, said there were no plans for a takeover or a buyout and insisted there would be no change in strategy as a result of the purchase.

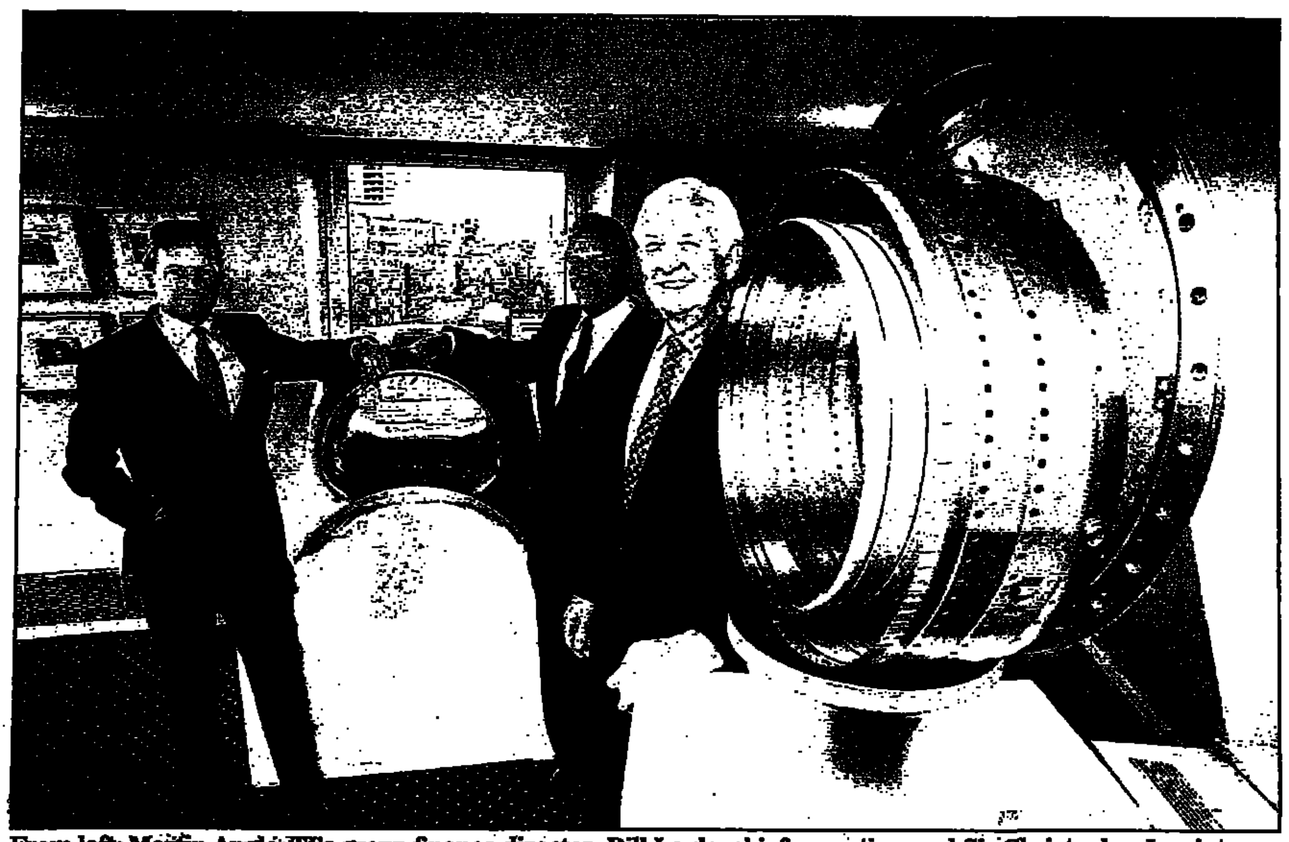
"We hope the 5 per cent will help the other 95 per cent. KKR bring things to the party and to the company, things that we wouldn't otherwise have. We can use their market intelligence and we will have access to finance which will allow us to accelerate our acquisition program."

Sir Christopher said the company would be interested in buying LucasVarity if TRW, its prospective owner, decided to spin off the aerospace business. "Yes, we would be interested. It would make a great fit, but we don't know if it's up for sale yet."

TI's executives portrayed the move as a vote of confidence from KKR, following a long-standing relationship with the investment group.

KKR's links with TI stretch back to 1986, when TI bought Houdaille, an engineer then owned by KKR. TI sold some of the business back to KKR, retaining John Crane, an engineer specialising in high-performance seals and couplings for industrial use. TI's acquisitions are central to its strategy. In the last year it has made five – including £270m on EIS, an aerospace and seals business, and £97m on Lips, a marine propulsion company.

Analysts said that the deal had successfully overshadowed results, brought forward to coincide with the announcement, that came in under expectations. Profits rose 7 per cent, to £238.6m, and dividends were up 8 per cent to 15.9p a share.



From left: Martin Angle, TI's group finance director; Bill Laule, chief executive; and Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman. Sir Christopher insisted there would be no change in strategy as a result of the KKR purchase

Moves to build trust in Internet trading

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday published a consultation paper on electronic commerce as a prelude to legislation it hopes will make Britain "the world's best environment for e-commerce trading by the year 2002."

The Government aims to build public trust in trading on the Internet while sweeping away legal barriers that have impeded the progress of Britain's burgeoning e-commerce sector.

Presenting the paper yesterday, the trade minister Michael Wills said: "The way we do business in the future is set to change dramatically. It is vitally important that this country plays an important part in this process and does not get left behind."

The paper proposes to remove legal barriers to using electronic "signatures" instead of pen and paper for everyday dealings. It also aims to build public confidence that credit card details cannot be read when consumers shop on-line and that the confidential information of businesses is protected on the Internet."

The paper focuses on technology that now allows messages to be signed electronically and then scrambles the details using a code that only the designated recipient can be read.

The paper is seeking views on a number of issues. They include:

■ Establishing a voluntary licensing system for businesses such as banks, the Post Office and BT, that are ready to provide the encryption service;
■ Setting the criteria which licensees will have to meet;
■ Updating the law so that contracts can be signed electronically not just on paper;
■ Establishing methods whereby law enforcement authorities can gain access to encrypted data if there is a perceived risk of criminal activity.

The Government has set up a task force consisting of government and industry figures to come up with detailed proposals on how some of these issues of privacy can be resolved. It is seeking responses by 1 April.

Standard Chartered taps City for £400m

By Andrew Garfield
Financial Editor

STANDARD CHARTERED, the UK-based emerging markets bank, yesterday sealed the purchase of UBS's trade finance business for £130m and tapped the City for £400m.

The bank's shares initially fell 20.5p to 810p on the move, later rebounding to end the day down 7.5p at 823p.

About half of the funds raised through a placing of 49 million new shares with City institutions will be used to pay for the UBS deal.

The remainder is being set aside for a string of other Asian acquisitions in the pipeline. The new shares, which were priced at 784p, a discount of 4.3 per cent to Thursday's closing price, represent 5 per cent of the capital. The placing was handled by Schroders and Goldman Sachs. Brokers to the placing were Cazenove and Warburg Dillon Reed.

As well as talking to to Bank of America about acquiring its Taiwanese business, Standard Chartered is one of several potential buyers carrying out due diligence on Nakorthorn Bank in Thailand.

The bank is also seeking to move back into Nigeria.

The moves are in line with the strategy outlined by Rana Talwar, the bank's new chief executive, to use its strong balance sheet to take advantage of the current Asia crisis and pick up sound businesses which would not otherwise be available at reasonable prices.

The UBS business which Standard Chartered is buying has around £1bn of total customer and bank assets and includes the dollar payment and clearing business for emerging markets trade based in the US.

Mr Talwar said yesterday: "Financing trade in emerging markets is a core activity and long established strength of Standard Chartered and we have today acquired a high-quality operation which strengthens our network position within emerging markets, particularly in Latin America and Asia. It also builds market share in our core trade finance and cash management businesses."

UBS decided late last year to put the trade finance business up for sale.

Austin Reed to cut clothes jobs

By Andrew Verity

AUSTIN REED, the clothing group, yesterday said it would have to cut up to 250 jobs from its plant at Crewe, signalling the end of its machine-made clothing operation in the UK.

The redundancies follow a decision earlier this year to close a factory in Donegal making Stephen Brothers shirts, resulting in136 job losses.

The retailer is keeping its up-market clothing business at the Crewe site, where suits are hand-tailored under the Chester Barrie brand. Colin Evans, chairman, said: "The decision [is] a direct result of tough market conditions, in particular the demanding European retail environment, strong pound volatility and low-cost competition from abroad."

Austin Reed has struggled to sell the machine-made operations since it hung a "for sale" sign over them a year ago. While some manufacturers had approached the firm, none had been willing to pay the minimum price the company was demanding.

Like other retailers, the company has been hit by the overwhelming trend for retailers to outsource their manufacturing to regions where labour is cheaper, notably eastern Europe.

In January, the company bought 175 Country Casual retail outlets plus 58 stores and concessions under the Austin Reed name for £25.9m. Austin Reed shares rose 5p to 92.5p yesterday.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

LONDON SHARES yesterday closed sharply higher, buoyed by a record-breaking performance on Wall Street after a positive set of US unemployment figures.

The receding prospect of a US rate hike boosted sentiment on both sides of the Atlantic and at the end of London trading the Dow was sporting a triple-digit rise. The US rally was behind a 104.1-point surge to 6205.5 in the FTSE 100. The FTSE 250 and small cap indices followed in the wake of the blue-chip index.

Market report, page 21

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES set a new intra-day record after the Labor Department released a benign jobs market report. The Dow was trading up more than 200 points early in the day, but lost some of its earlier gains in the afternoon. Just after lunch, the Dow was up 190.44 points at 9657.84, while the Nasdaq Composite was 36.3 points higher at 2329.19.

Financial, retail and communication stocks led the gains on confidence that they would prosper in a low inflation environment.

TOKYO

CHEAPER MONEY and a weaker yen helped Tokyo stocks to their biggest one-day gain this year. The Nikkei 225 index closed up 710.55 points, or 5.01 per cent at 14,894.

Hiroshi Ichio, strategist at Commerz Securities, said: "The market benefited from a monetary easing. As a result, the yen declined and it sparked expectations that the Japanese economy will not collapse further."

Market sentiment was also cheered by news that Sony and Toshiba plan to co-operate on chips for Sony's PlayStation machine.

HONG KONG

STRONG GAINS in HSBC shares helped Hong Kong shares to close sharply higher yesterday. The Hang Seng index finished 328.36 points or 3.31 per cent higher at 10,241.12, with the banking group HSBC accounting for more than a third of the gains.

Monday is HSBC's ex-dividend date, meaning that yesterday was the last day investors could buy shares and receive the company's final dividend. Thursday's gains on Wall Street and a strong showing in Tokyo also helped market sentiment, traders said.

SAO PAULO

BRAZIL STOCKS were trading higher, boosted by Thursday's interest rate hike and speculation about an imminent IMF deal. The Bovespa share index was up 71.28 points at 9579.37, while the real dipped below the psychologically important 2 to the dollar barrier for the first time in the week.

Markets were cheered by comments from Arminio Fraga, the Central Bank President, who said on Thursday that he would use part of the expected second loan tranche from the IMF to protect the real.

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				-0.814%			
894	385	Allied Domecq	496.0	1.0	5.1	18.4	1000
399	230	Belmont (H.P.)	356.0	0.0	6.6	14.7	1136
31	7	BurnStew Dist	11.5 x	0.0	..	..	4652
795	478	Diageo	722.0	-7.5	3.2	20.7	1029
900	625	Glenmorangie	730.0	0.0	2.5	16.4	2799
325	225	HghldDistillers	246.0	0.5	4.8	11.2	1259
244	115	Matthew Clark	–	..	..	8.5	1156
BANKS				3.330%			
1372	872	Abbey Natl	1243.0	x23.0	3.3	17.3	2121
1285	702	AIB	1070.0	x13.0	0.0	21.3	3420
960	738	Alliance Leic	780.0	-2.5	3.8	14.8	2233
1053	624	Barclays	1790.0	x35.0	2.8	19.7	1004
1490	843	Bk of Ireland	1252.5	22.5	0.0	20.6	3541
934	448	Bk of Scotl	880.0	22.3	1.4	24.3	3930
875	671	Halifax	747.5	27.5	3.1	16.7	3333
2072	975	HSBC (75P)	1910.0	108.0	2.4	19.7	5999
1863	950	HSBC (HK$10)	1879.0	108.0	2.8	18.4	6020
645	525	Leopold J	537.5	0.0	4.9	20.8	2380
1118	537	Lloyds TSB Gp	900.0	x10.5	2.8	21.4	6350
1356	694	Natwest Bk	1305.0	x65.0	3.3	15.8	1002
723	445	Northern Rock	500.0	10.0	2.8	18.2	3955
70	39	Rea Bros	51.5	0.5	2.5	10.5	3666
1283	561	Ryl Bk Scot	1269.5	64.0	2.4	17.4	3219
1044	357	Standchartd	823.0	-7.0	2.8	18.4	1441
482	355	Woolwich	382.5 x	0.0	5.1	14.3	3589
416	307	Woolwich	399.5	11.0	3.1	19.4	3077
BREWERIES PUBS & REST				0.125%			
1176	631	Bass	850.0	0.5	4.4	18.1	1005
17	7	Belgo Gp	9.8	0.0	–	162.5	2939
259	162	Belhaven	194.5	0.0	4.1	10.8	2987
196	137	Burtonwood	155.5	0.0	5.2	11.2	1139
152	86	Century Inns	117.5	0.0	8.6	7.5	3888
163	59	City Ctr Res	58.5	0.0	6.6	6.7	1104
837	448	Compass	754.0	x-10.0	0.8	43.8	4859
343	125	Eldridge P	301.5	0.0	4.0	16.4	4870
403	221	Enterprise Inns	395.0	-6.5	2.7	17.4	4777
553	450	Flr Smith&Invr	505.0	0.0	2.9	16.8	2163
538	264	Greenalls Gp	352.0	-1.5	6.1	8.5	1238
760	501	Greene King	538.0	0.0	4.5	9.2	1240
356	168	Chez Gerard	250.0	1.0	1.9	16.3	1610
282	204	Hardys & H	227.0	1.0	6.7	10.8	1248
2075	1345	Hall (J)	1455.0	0.0	5.8	6.8	2305
76	33	Inn Business	58.5 x	0.5	5.0	7.1	6809
1000	483	Luminar Gp	846.0	2.5	1.1	43.6	5993
317	220	Mansfield	228.5	0.0	4.5	8.6	1326

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
136	91	Cowings	111.5	0.0	4.1	18.5	1714
405	187	Headlam Gp	342.5	-2.5	2.7	17.8	2278
208	119	HR Owen	137.5	0.0	8.2	9.2	4793
160	97	Holders Tech	98.5	0.0	8.6	6.7	7358
545	175	Inchcape	402.5	22.5	4.3	14.3	8000
202	43	Ikon Gp	93.0	0.0	6.7	6.2	1787
234	88	Inchcape	147.0	2.0	8.2	98.0	7523
103	23	ISA Intl	43.0	0.5	9.6	4.2	5447
584	364	Kwik-Fit	417.5	1.5	2.0	18.7	1287
614	330	Lex Service	445.5	-4.0	5.1	6.4	1302
338	109	Lilleo Supplies	109.5	0.0	10.5	5.1	6516
123	62	Lookers	84.0	-0.5	11.3	5.4	2454
575	329	Menzies J	331.0	0.0	5.5	–	1334
5	1	Waddingtons	1.0 x	0.0	.	.	1570
327	172	Norbain	265.0	0.0	4.6	9.5	2685
264	135	Northamber	135.0	-1.5	4.0	7.8	2694
342	117	Partco Gp	187.5	0.0	6.8	7.9	1220
313	126	Pendragon	193.5	-0.5	7.2	9.1	5907
256	121	Perry	123.5	0.0	9.6	4.9	2757
420	138	Premier Farnell	197.0	1.0	7.3	7.5	1399
165	63	Quicks Grp	88.5	0.0	11.3	6.2	3010
140	39	REA Hldgs	45.0	0.0	8.9	9.4	1947
3	2	Reece	1.8 x	0.0	..	..	6191
39	22	Ring	32.0	0.0	8.3	10.3	2985
4	1	Ronson	0.9 x	0.0	–	–	1957
5	3	Ross Grp	3.3 x	0.0	–	18.3	6711
113	58	Ryland Gp	80.0	0.0	7.0	5.2	6183
30	4	Salter	4.0 x	-0.5	..	..	1810
290	127	Sanderson Bral	204.5	1.0	3.6	8.5	2882
32	11	SEP Ind	13.0	0.0	72.5	6.5	6046
68	25	Sedgeco	42.0	0.0	6.3	12.0	6474
274	124	Symer	202.5	0.0	4.5	8.2	2691
193	64	Time Prod	92.5	0.0	14.3	4.4	3076
678	495	Tibbet	622.5	17.5	2.3	18.3	1218
440	288	UNIGEO	305.0	0.0	3.0	14.0	2069
124	14	Utd O'seas Gp	17.0	0.0	8.5	4.4	2024
300	165	Vardy (Reg)	285.0	3.0	3.6	11.9	4677
840	645	WF Elect	645.0	0.0	3.4	15.4	3289
193	63	Wyko	106.0 x	0.5	4.1	8.8	1508
166	85	Young (H)	85.0	0.0	7.4	5.4	3309
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				0%			
330	157	Antofagasta	174.0	0.0	4.0	1.6	3436
23	15	Carlisle Hldgs	17.8	0.0		–	4370
278	178	Cosalt	187.5	-4.0	8.8	6.0	1918
613	335	DCC	515.0	0.0	1.8	16.9	2106
147	70	Grampian	94.0	-1.0	9.7	11.5	5448
415	213	Lonrho	406.5 x	6.5	4.7	23.4	1038
96	49	Lonrho Africa	49.5 x	0.0	6.3	–	2926
180	88	McLeod Russel	102.5	x10.0	8.1	6.7	7303
470	428	SouthAfricanBrew	465.0	9.0		14.7	7418

MAIN MOVERS

RISES

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Premier Oil	14.50	2.75	23.40
McLeod Russe	182.50	18.00	10.80
Renishaw	403.50	33.50	9.05
TI Group	445.00	34.50	8.40
McKechnie	377.50	29.00	8.32
Fenner	138.50	10.00	8.30
Polypipe	138.50	10.50	8.20
Indep Insura	238.00	18.00	8.18
Powerscreen	118.00	8.00	7.84
Atlantic Tel	247.00	17.00	7.39

FALLS

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Albert Fisher	5.25	-0.25	-4.55
Old English	135.00	-6.50	-4.47
Geest	381.50	-15.00	-3.98
RBS Magnet	149.00	-6.00	-3.87
CLS Holdings	103.50	-4.00	-3.72
Royal & Sun	566.25	-21.50	-3.66
Stagecoach H	238.75	-8.75	-3.52
Oxford Asymm	451.50	-16.00	-3.42
Game	130.50	-4.50	-3.33
Gallaher Grp	420.25	-14.25	-3.28

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
BP Amoco Plc	35.03m	Tadpole Tech Plc	23.71m	[illegible] Plc	15.24m	Rolls-Royce	12.90m
Signet Group	34.19m	Lasmo Plc	22.91m	Tesco Plc	15.16m	Marks & Spencer	12.39m
Shell Transp-Reg 31.18m		Asda Group Plc	20.81m	Gen Elec Plc	13.37m	Albright & Wilson	11.58m
		Premier Oil Plc	20.83m	Aegis Group	13.17m	Royal & Sun All	10.32m
Sema Group	23.83m	BG Plc	16.05m	SmithKline Beech	12.80m	Elec Boutique	10.31m

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	6101.4		11:00	6137.9	Up 36.5	15:00	6226.8	Up 125.4
9:00	6101.4	Up 0.0	12:00	6141.1	Up 39.7	16:00	6195.0	Up 93.6
10:00	6160.6	Up 59.2	13:00	6141.8	Up 40.2	Close	6205.5	Up 104.1
			14:00	6235.2	Up 134.8			

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
143	99	Fleming Wld Ins	128.0	0.0	4.2	–	6537
92	45	Flem Worldwd	71.5	0.0	7.8	–	5467
104	29	F&C EmgMkt	48.0 x	1.5	–	.	6767
303	215	F&C Entpse	282.5	1.0	1.7	–	2111
211	153	F&C Inv	199.8	3.3	1.6	–	1219
124	89	F&C Pac	128.8	5.3	1.9	–	1226
577	331	F&C Euro	485.0	3.8	0.5	–	2113
183	136	F&C PEP	163.0	1.0	3.7	–	6226
227	145	F&C Smlr	179.3	0.3	2.2	–	1543
180	119	F&C US Sm	165.0	5.5		–	6703
128	92	F&C InGIT	113.0 x	1.0	3.8	–	1842
308	228	Pantheon Intl	283.0 x	1.0	–	–	6846
141	84	Ppt Euro	121.3	2.3		–	6125
167	98	Ppt Inc&Gwth	126.8	0.8	4.6	–	5396
425	263	Ppt UK SmCo	319.0	3.0	2.7	–	7167
159	99	Prolific Income	136.0	0.8	4.2	–	3473
361	278	RIT Cap Ptnr	342.0	6.5	0.7	–	7911
59	28	Schrdr AsiaPac	47.8	2.8	1.3	–	4805
185	115	Schrdr Inc Gwth	134.8	1.3	3.3	–	4065
61	35	Schroder Japan	60.3	2.5		–	2797
135	115	SchroderSplitFd	119.5 x	0.8	9.1	–	1665
180	107	Schroder UK	131.0	2.5	1.9	–	1665

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
99	31	Govt Asia SmCo	87.8	1.8	0.8	–	1151
93	38	Govt Eng Mkt	55.5	1.5	1.1	–	3432
99	72	Govt Hi Inc	91.8	0.3	7.6	–	7139
499	316	Govt Strg	387.0	7.5	2.5	..	1712
54	41	Gp Tst	41.3	-0.3	5.5	–	3879
148	100	GT Inc Gth	128.5	1.0	3.4	–	5585
112	83	H Sam UK Em	77.0	1.5	0.8	–	5580
374	261	Hend Elec & Gen	353.5	4.0	1.3	–	6538
128	74	HendFarEastIncTr	106.5 x	3.0	6.0	–	
183	141	Hend Hi Inc	162.8	1.3	5.2	–	6522
39	25	Hend Jap SmCo	38.5	1.5	–	–	4582
300	186	Hend SmlCos	253.0 x	1.5	2.0	–	3165
184	113	Smaller Co	152.0	2.0	1.5	–	7889
399	271	St Andrew	312.0	-1.5	3.8	–	2985
98	58	Taiwan Inv	73.3	0.3		–	1399
619	451	Templ Bar Inv	566.0	7.5	3.8	–	1461
129	57	Templ EmgMkt	91.8	2.3	1.5	–	2176
104	36	Templ LatAm	60.5	1.5	0.7	–	2167
175	110	ThemisFTSEAll-S	134.0	1.0	3.5	–	6539
450	373	Throgm Clive	430.0	0.0	1.1	–	3348
104	60	Throgmorton	71.0 x	0.0	4.3	–	5231
277	155	TR Euro Gwth	189.5	0.0	0.2	–	6819
51	34	TR Propty	39.8 x	0.3	3.4	–	3164
622	425	Tribune Inv Tr	613.5	3.8	1.5	–	3148

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52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
153	85	Hend Tech Tst	149.0	5.0		–	
67	37	Hend TR Pacific	49.3	1.5	0.6	–	1931
633	380	Hen Strata	536.0 x	6.8	..	–	3013
307	131	Herald Inv Tst	306.0	3.0	0.5	–	1465
197	113	I&S UK SmlCo	148.5	1.0	4.6	.	2132
58	27	INVESCO Asia	45.5	2.3	1.8	.	4374
216	108	INVESCO Eng	133.0 x	1.5	2.4	..	2897
61	23	INVESCO Korea	55.5 x	0.8	–	.	4790
30	19	INVESCO Tokyo	27.3	1.5		.	4382
128	89	InvTst of InvTsts	109.5	2.0		.	3846
698	98	TribuneTr-IDX	607.5	9.5		.	
179	117	Undrvald Assts	144.0	2.5	2.0	–	2244
270	164	US Smlr Cos	238.0 x	5.5		–	3800
167	105	Value & Income	115.3	1.0	5.3	–	3000
139	105	Value Realisatn	139.5	0.5	1.2	–	4008
58	34	Warrants&Val	41.3	0.5		..	6716
403	288	Witan Inv	378.5	2.0	2.4	–	3286
8	4	Yeoman II Cap	5.5	0.0		–	4585
LEISURE & HOTELS				0.1			

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
210	148	MGrt EqyInc	201.0	0.5	4.4	–	4858
81	30	MGrt LatAmCo	47.5	1.8	1.1	–	1889
71	23	Mrry Emg Econ	35.5 x	1.0	1.7		3773
143	82	Mrry Enterprise	107.0	4.0	3.6	–	3024
259	205	Mrry Grosvenor Tr	221.5	0.0	2.5		
538	382	Mrry Income	477.5	4.5	3.8		1352
505	347	Mrry Internatl	447.0	4.5	3.9	–	1354
435	234	Mrry Smlr Mkts	350.5	1.0	2.2	–	2840
408	58	Mrry Ventures Inv	67.0	1.5		–	2838
194	115	Natwest Sm Co	127.5	1.5	3.1		3717
545	320	Nth Atl SmCo	390.5	6.0		–	6918
150	58	Old Mutual SA	90.5	1.5	0.8	–	2782
53	25	Pacific Assets	44.3	2.0	1.0	–	1370
32	15	Pacific Horizon	24.3	0.5	4.6	–	3465
244	130	MacDonald Hotels	165.0	6.0	3.9	11.2	4991
236	134	Man Utd	228.5	0.5	0.9	58.6	6030
627	234	Mitl & Copth	541.0	0.0	2.2	17.7	5824
123	57	Newcastle Utd	92.0	-0.5	2.4	46.0	2015
300	82	Mtrs Leisure	137.0	2.0	5.2	15.2	4960
47	22	PGA Euro Tour	30.0 x	0.0		42.9	4685
44	18	Queens Moat	24.0	-0.3		2.9	1385
30	15	Queensboro	18.5	-1.0	3.0	7.1	1808
17	7	Rage Soft	16.3 x	1.0	–	54.2	3482
434	176	Rank	245.0	10.0	8.4	–	1385
49	25	Regal Hotel	29.0	-0.5	5.7	5.8	5900
65	50	Ryan Hotels	60.5	0.0	3.4	10.5	3587
188	80	ScotHighlndsHotels	90.0	0.0	5.2	6.4	7495
248	103	Sinclair (W)	117.5	0.0	9.4	8.2	3277
196	80	Stakis	164.5	1.0	2.1	22.2	1440

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Code
INDEX-LINKED						
206.45	196.71	Tsy IL 2.5 01	202.84	-0.15	3.00	3186
207.88	194.05	Tsy IL 2.5 03	204.15	-0.27	2.51	3167
134.42	125.21	Tsy IL 4.38 04	132.35	-0.19	2.17	3176
239.06	208.41	Tsy IL 2 06	233.13	-0.34	1.86	3150
216.85	188.88	Tsy IL 2.5 09	213.62	-0.41	2.00	3160
230.17	187.57	Tsy IL 2.5 11	228.47	-0.32	2.04	3163
193.60	164.01	Tsy IL 2.5 13	190.34	-0.56	2.08	3140
213.89	171.88	Tsy IL 2.5 20	210.17	-0.72	2.01	3170
		Tsy IL 2.5 24				4993
184.82	142.38	Tsy IL 4.125 30	181.37	-0.75	1.88	
PERPETUAL						
58.40	48.36	Con 3.5% Perp	51.52	0.53	4.86	1898
55.14	39.78	Tsy 2.5% Perp	50.75	0.78	4.93	3131
65.68	47.07	Tsy 3% Perp	61.28	1.29	4.80	3132
94.85	73.23	Con 3.5% Perp	90.08	–	3.89	1000
79.92	67.18	War 3.5% Perp	73.45	1.48	4.76	3894
86.59	62.88	Con 4% Perp	79.83	1.50	5.01	1895
SHORTS						
102.11	100.01	Tsy 6.5% 99	–	–	–	3121
105.39	100.31	Exch 12.25% 99	100.24	-0.04	5.17	2883
104.23	101.02	Tsy 10.5% 99	101.65	-0.02	5.85	3145
100.51	98.94	Tsy 6% 99	100.45	0.03	4.01	6714
105.70	103.56	Con 10.25% 99	103.82	0.02	4.98	1808
MEDIUMS						
104.44	102.86	Con 9% 00	103.93	0.06	4.97	3123
113.77	110.28	Tsy 13% 00	110.36	0.06	4.90	3112
105.85	102.21	Tsy 8% 00	104.95	0.12	5.08	3436
110.37	107.12	Tsy 10% 01	109.23	0.14	5.04	3097
106.51	100.68	Tsy 7% 01	105.11	0.26	4.92	5297
109.13	101.41	Tsy 7% 02	106.42	0.34	4.86	4881
117.30	111.10	Tsy 9.75% 02	115.16	0.36	4.85	3090
114.75	108.80	Tsy 8% 03	112.14	0.47	4.81	6807
123.52	115.42	Tsy 10% 03	120.92	0.92	4.87	3094
118.86	110.75	Tsy 11.5% 04	112.27	0.15	5.00	3131
99.27	91.55	Fund 3.5% 04	96.59	0.63	4.24	2198
128.43	116.84	Con 9.5% 04	122.96	0.61	4.80	1907
113.39	102.83	Tsy 6.75% 04	110.28	0.51	4.88	5479
128.17	117.82	Con 9.5% 05	124.46	0.70	4.83	6478
125.32	113.84	Tsy 8.5% 05	121.34	0.76	4.78	3320
122.41	110.38	Tsy 7.75% 06	118.27	0.83	4.82	2980
111.74	104.81	Tsy 8% 06	109.57	0.25	5.04	3125
121.03	108.28	Tsy 7.5% 06	117.30	0.84	4.79	4652
128.36	128.00	Tsy 11.75% 07	124.22	0.82	4.82	3162
129.95	116.84	Tsy 8.5% 07	125.84	1.09	4.80	3195
122.57	109.63	Tsy 7.25% 07	117.89	1.04	4.73	2213
138.52	122.82	Tsy 9% 08	133.21	1.30	4.67	5434
132.05	113.71	Tsy 8% 09	127.26	0.28	4.09	3154
LONGS						
118.77	101.37	Tsy 6.25% 10	114.13	1.08	4.87	1871
145.31	128.21	Con 9% 11	138.80	1.26	4.72	6008
147.76	127.31	Tsy 9% 12	141.74	1.37	4.78	5146
112.24	95.82	Tsy 5.5% 12	107.44	0.94	4.83	3138
139.90	118.58	Tsy 8% 13	133.96	1.30	4.74	8771
123.60	114.01	Tsy 7.75% 15	128.10	1.25	4.70	3123
144.14	128.00	Tsy 8% 15	137.90	1.30	4.78	3818
156.07	130.11	Tsy 8.75% 17	149.35	1.58	4.72	5736
131.17	101.10	Tsy 6% 28	123.38	1.64	4.55	
152.21	124.44	Tsy 8% 21	146.71	1.70	4.67	

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
97	33	MDIS	43.5 x	0.0	..	275.6	1195
151	61	Malvern Abbey	144.0	x-3.5	0.9	30.8	2777
721	95	Merant	113.5	7.0	–	8.4	2587
141	55	Microgen	121.5	8.0	0.9		2501
742	290	Misys	625.8 x	8.3	0.6	47.9	5347
177	93	MITIE Grp	173.5	0.0	1.0	33.7	2295
85	22	Orbis	39.8	0.8	5.5	15.3	7613
863	381	Parity	714.0	-8.5	1.1	25.0	6288
451	203	Photo-Me	451.0 x	6.5	1.9	34.2	6312
55	16	Proudfoot	21.0	1.0	4.6	5.0	1856
780	220	PSD	515.0	0.0	2.9	12.6	1846
608	280	Quality Share	430.0 x	0.0	..	21.3	6769
156	46	Quantica	50.9	0.6		7.4	
193	71	Reed Exec	101.0	0.0	4.1	5.4	6478
220	123	Reliance Sec	218.0	0.0	4.5	14.0	5692
402	279	Rentokil Grp	388.8	-10.3	1.1	31.8	7779
286	163	Ricardo Grp	265.0	1.0	2.8	24.6	2842
678	195	RM	584.0	-1.0	0.5	73.0	3807
570	168	Rolfe & N	201.0	0.0	0.8	–	1401
538	186	Royalblue Gp	538.0	13.0	0.7	48.9	
488	255	RPS Grp	462.5	1.5	1.4	26.6	6371
2178	990	Sage	1970.0	5.0	0.2	88.6	6601
181	94	Sanderson El	178.5	-2.0	1.9	13.6	7800
1069	320	Select Appts	878.5 x	0.5	–	28.9	5695
175	116	Style Holdings	128.0	0.0	1.5	12.9	2481
145	94	Touchstone Grp	123.0	0.0	8.3	–	3249
955	370	TRACKER Network	435.0	5.0	2.2	15.2	4596
32	6	Victory Corp	6.5	0.0		–	1397
108	45	Waterfall Holdings	57.5 x	0.0	8.5	11.3	5887
305	18	Westmount Energy	17.5	0.8		8.7	4862
205	55	World Telecom	68.0	0.0	–	–	
833	159	Zergo	755.0	42.5		–	

RECENT ISSUES

Stock	Price	Chg(p)	Code
Ambient Media	50.0	2.6	3893
Coca-Cola Beverages	95.0	0.0	3794
Eclectec Prop	208.0	-5.0	3894
ICC Company	270.0	0.0	3128
JWE Telecom	140.0	0.0	2889
Quarrica	50.0	0.0	2388
Salestore	51.0	-0.5	2840

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com/uk

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest 12 months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: r Ex rights; x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; s Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics. Source: Bloomberg

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Things couldn't be better for Brown

OUTLOOK

IT IS an unlikely position for a Labour Chancellor. Gordon Brown delivers his Budget speech next Tuesday with the public finances in better shape than for more than 10 years. The likely out-turn for this fiscal year is a budget surplus of around £8bn. Not since the 1960s has a Labour Chancellor been able to balance the books in this way.

Furthermore, the immediate outlook is for better still. From 1 April, the Inland Revenue begins the process of switching to quarterly payments of corporation tax. The effect of this will be to give the Chancellor a one-off cash-flow benefit of £1.5bn in the first year, rising to £5bn over five years. Also already announced for next financial year, there's an extra £1.5bn from the phased abolition of tax credits on dividends, £1bn from the abolition of profit-related pay, and £1.5bn in extra excise duties.

There is, of course, another side to the balance sheet – government spending. One of the reasons for the present buoyancy in the figures is that, inexplicably, government spending is coming in lower than forecast. That cannot last, and in any case, announced extra spending on health and education begins to kick in with a vengeance from next fiscal year onwards. All the same, it is looking more and more possible that the Chancellor will be able to maintain a budget surplus right through the very worse that the present downturn in the business cycle has to throw at him.

By any stretch, this is a truly remarkable state of affairs. The general assumption in the City is that the overall fiscal stance of the Budget will be neutral, though the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to leave interest rates unchanged, taken this week with prior knowledge of the broad fiscal outline of the budget, might suggest otherwise. Even so, it is plain that whatever giveaway might be forthcoming, it is not going to be a significant one. The fiscal cannon is recharged, but for the time being, the Chancellor is not tempted to fire it.

The cynical view, as well as the almost certainly correct one, is that the Chancellor is simply waiting for the run-up to the next election, when voters will be pump-primed in the traditional manner. But actually there is no urgent need, as things stand, to provide the economy with a fresh fiscal stimulus. Perhaps surprisingly, though not to readers of this column, Britain looks as if will avoid a fully fledged recession – as defined by two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

The good news from the US yesterday was that the American economic miracle continues unabated. Despite the booming economy and tight labour market, wage pressure remains in abeyance. There's no sign of inflation and therefore no immediate need for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates. No wonder President Clinton survived the Monica Lewinsky affair. For an explanation of why he remains one of the most popular presidents in US history, look no further than the Dow at 9,665.

Lewinton magic

SIR CHRISTOPHER Lewinton seems to have pulled off a master stroke in attracting Kohlberg Kravis Roberts on to the TI share register, and Henry Kravis on to its board. Finally an investor with international credibility has recognised the value to be had from Britain's unloved engineering sector, and backed his judgement with real money. The effect was immediate and electric – TI shares climbed 8.5 per cent yesterday.

Sir Christopher's friendship with Mr Kravis goes back to the mid-1980s, when he bought some companies from KKR and moulded them into the former Tube Investments. They've stayed in touch ever since, so Sir Christopher was intrigued and delighted when Mr Kravis approached him requesting an investment in the company.

KKR is getting in at close to the bottom for TI's share price, and Sir Christopher admits that he doesn't particularly need KKR's money. So why is he diluting other shareholders in this manner?

The reasons are twofold. The mere fact that Henry Kravis believes TI to be undervalued, and publicly states it with a near £100m investment, is bound to make others think there may be something worth having there after all.

The second is KKR's global intelligence network, which ought to provide a ready source of appropriate international acquisitions. Sir Christopher and his other shareholders need to watch it, of course. Mr Kravis is one of the world's most accomplished "vulture capitalists", and he'll find some way of demanding his pound of flesh.

But while his mere presence on the share register brings such sparkle to the share price, nobody is going to complain too much, and if he succeeds through his interest in breathing life back into the bombed-out UK engineering sector, we can only applaud.

E commerce

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE is growing far faster than the ability of governments' to control it. Issues of law, tax and personal privacy have long been a main obstacle to the development of electronic commerce and communication.

Scare stories about hackers downloading credit card details and going on shopping sprees are a key deterrent to committing such details to cyberspace. An odd reaction, this, given how easily we give our cards to waiters, call centres and cinema booking offices. But it shows that if a new medium is not fully understood, it is easy to deter potential users.

Now the Government is wading in. Its consultation paper on electronic commerce issued yesterday is an attempt to bring industry and government together to introduce acceptable standards that will make Britain an e-commerce "hot spot".

E-commerce is set to reach £350bn worldwide by 2002, the white paper says. Six million Britons are already on-line. The advent of free Internet access providers, the launch of digital television and the coming of web-TV that incorporates an Internet connection into a TV set will help transform e-commerce into a mass market phenomenon.

What the Government is trying to do is develop a legal framework to support this explosive growth and defend if from abuse. The future, it says is in "digital signatures", legally enforceable and coded so that the criminal fraternity cannot get their mitts on them.

All this seems sensible enough, but if it is not, nobody is getting much of a chance to say so. The Government has given industry and others just three weeks to respond, an incredibly short time for an issue as important as this. Such rush is unnecessary. As rapidly as e-commerce is growing in this country, it still accounts for a tiny proportion of trade. There are numerous structural reasons why e commerce is not going to take off in Britain with the speed it has in the US, not least our cultural aversion to mail order and remote shopping. The Government ought to be taking its time in ensuring our blueprint for the digital age is absolutely spot on.

Footsie goes along for the ride as Dow Jones soars

MARKET REPORT

FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE FTSE 100 yesterday resembled a passenger being driven at high speed in a sports car. The Dow Jones index was firmly in the driving seat, soaring away after a benign set of employment figures.

The numbers should stave off the much-feared US rate hike, and a relieved Wall Street slammed its foot on the accelerator to post a record-breaking triple digit rise. The London blue-chips were comfortably seating alongside their US big brother, coming within striking distance of their all-time peak. The end of the week excitement left the index 104.1 points higher at 6205.5.

The buying momentum slowed a bit towards the end of London trading, pushing the index down from its session's high of 6243.3. It was a rip-roaring performance nevertheless, and the smaller indices struggled to keep pace. The FTSE 250 finished 33.6 up to 5348.4, while the small cap posted a 15-point increase to 2304.4.

The Anglo-Saxon buying spree came after some good rallies on some of the Eastern exchanges. The Hang Seng index was among them and Hong-Kong related stocks had a field day in London. Cable & Wireless was on the right line after its majority-owned unit HongKong Telecom hinted at an Internet collaboration with Microsoft. The presence of "Microsoft" and "Internet" – two of the market's favourite words – in the same sentence sent C&W's shares up 30.5p to 855.5p.

RAZORCUTS Entertainments, which allows music fans to create their own CD compilations, yesterday made its Ofex debut with a 1.5p rise to 31.5p. The Middlesex-based company raised over £307,000 by offering 1 million shares. Razorcuts customers can choose tracks from its catalogue, add their own title and receive a CD a few days later.

The reawakened Internet frenzy helped Dixons, the latest on-line play, to a 53p rise to 1,19[illegible]p – a five-year peak.

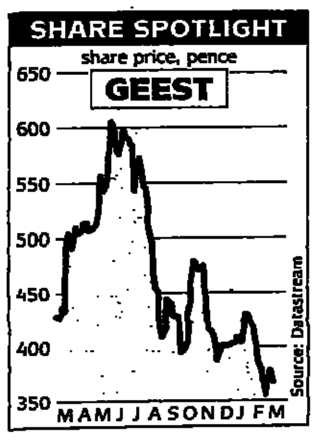
HSBC, the Hong Kong based bank, shared in the domestic fun, cashing in a 106p increase to 1910p. Standard Chartered, the other big Eastern financial house, missed out, ended 7.5p lower at 823p as investors took a dim view of a discounted share placing. Warburg and Cazenove lodged £400m worth of stock with institutions at around 784p. Standard will use the proceeds to fund acquisitions.

It was a day of big placings and hefty share sales. TI, the bombed-out aerospace engineer, surprised everybody with the sale of a 4.9 per cent stake to KKR, the US leveraged buyout kings. The heroes of the *Barbarian at the Gates* book paid 400p a share for the stake.

TI said the money will be used to fund US acquisitions and there is no "chance" of a takeover by KKR.

Dealers did not know whether to believe them or not and pushed the shares 34.5p higher to 445p just in case.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Other engineers fared well too. McKechnie was the pick of the bunch, flying 29p higher to 377.5p as Merrill was rumoured to have selected it as a core sector holding.

Sema, down16.5p to 700.5p, was on the receiving end of a stake sale. The French bank Paribas offloaded a 4 per cent stake in the information technology group as part of a derivatives deal. The Gallic financial house said it did not want to sell its remaining 10 per cent but the move dashed Sema's hopes of entering the FTSE 100 at next week's reshuffle.

Williams, the fire and security group, could avoid relegation to the FTSE 250, after rising 11p to 359.5p. A CSFB upgrade to strong buy plus a 500p price target were responsible.

Gallaher, the cigarette maker, damaged its chances of remaining in the top flight by puffing away 14.25p to 420.25p. Royal & SunAlliance, certain to remain in the FTSE 100, was hit by some late trades and retreated 21.5p to 566.25p. Share buying by the chairman Sir Patrick Gillam did not deter the sellers.

United News & Media, the publishing group, rose 22p to 653p on good results.

Geest, the banana group, slipped 15p to 361.5p after Cazenove placed 1.5 million shares at 350p, a near 7 per cent discount to the share price.

Axon, a software group sold 18 million shares at 175p, netting £32.8m to get ready for the Thursday float.

The placing feast was completed by South African Breweries, another aspiring blue-chip. The beer group pushed 11 million shares ahead of Monday's float. The stock put on 9p to 465p on the grey market.

Synstar, an IT company, paid for its limited pre-float publicity with a 8p fall to 134p in its first day of full-blown trading. The shares have shed over 20p since last week's start of conditional dealings.

FASTRACK GROUP, a parcels delivery company with a colourful past, was the best stock market performer yesterday, soaring 65 per cent to a 12-month peak of 9.5p. The company has been on a tipsheets roadshow over the past few weeks and the punters were piling in. Fastrack has just completed a wide-ranging restructuring to focus on overnight parcels.

Swan Hill, the housebuilder, subsided 9.5p to 63.5p after the collapse of takeover talk. A promised £15m capital return to shareholders did not help much. Chemring, a military engineer, marched 14p lower to 132.5p after breaking up bid talks with a mystery financial buyer.

The media agency Aegis was down 2.25p to 128.25, after revealing that the chief executive and the finance director had netted around £3m from the exercise of options.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.21 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 98,765
GILTS INDEX: n/a

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
City Gourmets Holdings (I)	1.956m (0 593m)	-0.466m (-0 183m)	-2.2p (-)	–	–	–
Euro Sales Finance (I)	5 521m (3.017m)	0.824m (0 614m)	6p (6.6p)	0.5p (-)	01.04.99	01.04.99
Gr[illegible] (F)	291 420m (265.941m)	20.214m (18.035m)	122.8p (121.1p)	41p (37p)	21.05.99	12.04.99
B[illegible]ss Post Group (F)	151.362m (116.157m)	29 410m (31.012m)	4.93p (4.35p)	0.60p (0.42p)	12.05.99	15.03.99
Limelight Group (F)	167.751m (163.796m)	8.104m (-12.278m)	6.8p (-11.5p)	– (–)	–	–
Swan Hill (F)	76 417m (88.372m)	3.096m (8.789m)	4.1p (11 8p)	3p (2.75p)	26.05.99	29 03.99
Thorntons (I)	87.76m (80 291m)	11.743m (10 379m)	14.09p (10p)	1.95p (1.8p)	30 04.99	15.03.99
TI Group (F)	2.168b (1.870b)	226.7m (220.6m)	30.4p (31 6p)	17.2p (15.9p)	28.05.99	15.03.99
United News & Media (F)	2 204b (2 265b)	401m (209m)	*43.5p (44p)	22.9p (-)	01.06.99	15.03.99
VDC (I)	46 470m (45.244m)	0 958m (0.974m)	8.23p (6.41p)	1.375p (1.375p)	01.04.99	15.03.99

(F) - Final (I) - Interim * Before Exceptionals

Thorntons' finance director Martin Allen and Roger Paffard, chief executive, as the chocolate retailer and manufacturer reported half year profits up from £11.5m to £12.1m. *FT*

United News cool on Scottish Media bid

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

LORD HOLLICK, the chief executive of United News & Media, yesterday played down suggestions that the television and newspaper group was considering a bid for Scottish Media Group.

Lord Hollick stressed that buying SMG was "not a priority" for United as the group attempts to achieve its newly adopted target of posting double-digit annual revenue growth over the next three years.

Analysts believe United is one of the obvious candidates to buy the 18.5 per cent stake in SMG which Mirror Group, the newspaper publisher, put up for sale on Thursday.

Carlton and Granada, the rival ITV companies, are also expected to consider buying the stake, as is CanWest, the Canadian media group. Carlton and United would then be in a position to use the stake as a launch pad for a full bid for SMG.

However, United is more keen to use its financial firepower to make acquisitions that will give it market leadership in fast-growing markets. The group recently bought Newsdesk, an Internet news service, and Audits & Surveys, a US market research company. United is currently the third-largest ITV company, but buying SMG would not change its ranking.

Lord Hollick said that the company, which has borrowings of £600m, could comfortably afford to spend a further £500m on acquisitions.

He was speaking as United reported a slight increase in underlying pre-tax profits of £290m for the year to last December. Revenues jumped 10 per cent to £2.0bn.

The results were adjusted for the demerger of Garban, United's moneybroking division, which it spun off last year, and the sale of its regional newspaper division.

Profit growth was held back by start-up losses incurred by United's investments in Channel 5, the LineOne internet service, and SDN, its digital broadcasting venture. Results were also affected by investment in the Express newspaper titles.

The figures came as little surprise, as United had already given the City an indication of its profits after mistakenly sending its earnings figures to analysts a few weeks ago. United shares closed up 22p at 653p.

Swan Hill shares fall after bid talks called off

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

SWAN HILL shares fell 9.5p to 63.5p after it announced it had ended talks about a possible offer for the company and was ditching property development in order to concentrate on housebuilding.

Swan, which was formed when the old Higgs and Hill sold its construction business two years ago, also announced pre-tax profits for 1998 down 32 per cent to £3.1 million.

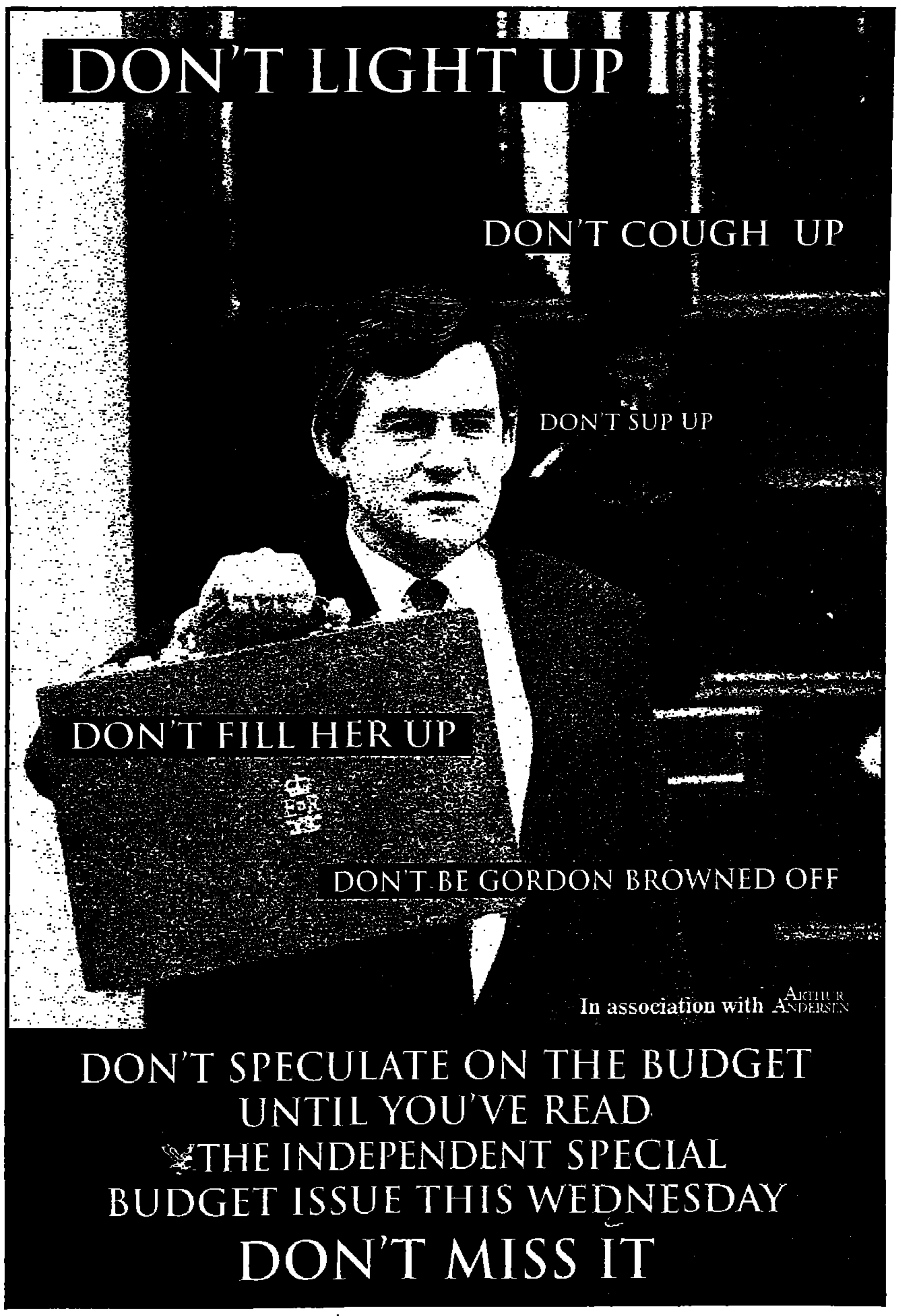
John Theakston, group chief executive, said Swan will pay back £15m to shareholders over the next 12-18 months. Swan will also divert £50m of capital in the next three years from its property development side to housebuilding, mostly in the South of England. This will nearly double the total capital devoted to housebuilding to about £90m.

Mr Theakston acknowledged the market's unhappy reaction but pointed out that the shares had stood at around 40p before the multiple bid approaches earlier in the year, which pushed the price up to the mid-70s. The unsolicited offers had come from both the property and housebuilding sectors, Mr Theakston said. He added: "The board felt we could realise shareholder value better by pursuing our new strategy.

"We decided that property development and housebuilding together are not easy for investors to value, and that concentrating on housebuilding will make things more transparent," the chief executive said.

"We doubled housebuilding profits last year and our operating margins in that division are 14 per cent, which is good by industry standards."

Last year Swan's turnover slipped to £76.4 m from £88.4m the previous year. Swan proposed a final dividend of 1.8p, making a total of 3p, up 9 per cent.


DON'T LIGHT UP
DON'T COUGH UP
DON'T SUP UP
DON'T FILL HER UP
DON'T BE GORDON BROWNED OFF
In association with ARTHUR ANDERSEN

DON'T SPECULATE ON THE BUDGET
UNTIL YOU'VE READ
THE INDEPENDENT SPECIAL
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SPORT

Australian Grand Prix: McLaren see Ferrari as main threat tomorrow despite Italian team's poor practice times

Hakkinen crashes as Coulthard flies

THE SPECTRE of Mika Hakkinen's near-fatal accident in Adelaide three years ago flitted briefly through Albert Park yesterday when the world champion's efforts to push home his advantage ended with a hefty crash at the last corner that brought out the red flag to stop practice.

Back in 1995 a tyre failure pitched Hakkinen into a wall at high-speed during practice for the Australian Grand Prix, and only an emergency tracheotomy, performed by the side of the track, saved his life. This time, though, the McLaren came to rest badly damaged, but the 30-year-old Finn was able to jump out unassisted and dismissed with his characteristic insouciance what he clearly regarded as just another of Formula One's occupational hazards.

BY DAVID TREMAYNE
in Melbourne

"You have to find the limit somehow," he said philosophically. "I was on a really good lap in the first two intermediate points, but I just pushed it a bit too hard. No big deal."

His team-mate, David Coulthard, who pushed ahead to set the fastest time when the session restarted, described the difficulties that face the drivers on the latest grooved Bridgestone tyres, which have been much criticised during the winter test sessions.

"An F1 car is difficult to drive. You get understeer going into a corner, but oversteer coming out. It's sliding and it gets snappy. Sometimes you get it wrong. Mika was pushing very hard, and the car just got away from him."

Much anticipation accompanied the first meeting of all of the new cars under similar track conditions, after the chess game of winter testing. And even though Hakkinen's McLaren required much remedial surgery, the incident did little to dent confidence as the team dominated the first day and showed every sign of continuing its ultra-competitive form. "Mika just lost it because he was a little bit too quick going into the corner, but it wasn't a big issue," said Norbert Haug, the sporting director of Mercedes-Benz. "We are well prepared for the race. I was particularly pleased for David, because he was really fighting and going for it."

Johnny Herbert, fifth fastest on his first upbeat outing for Stewart-Ford, heaped further praise on the updated head protection that was introduced for the 1999 season. The 34-year-old Briton crashed heavily during recent tests in Spain, but like Hakkinen emerged unharmed after the deformable structure surrounding the cockpit had done its job.

"My accident in Barcelona was as bad as the Formula 3000 shunt I had at Brand's Hatch back in 1988," Herbert said, referring to the accident in which he shattered both feet. "You could see where my head hit the cockpit protection, but apart from a slight headache for an hour or so I was absolutely fine. People ask me whether you suffer psychological problems after an incident like that, and I tell them that the safety standards of these cars is one big reason why we can simply shake them off." Hakkinen was the first to agree with him.

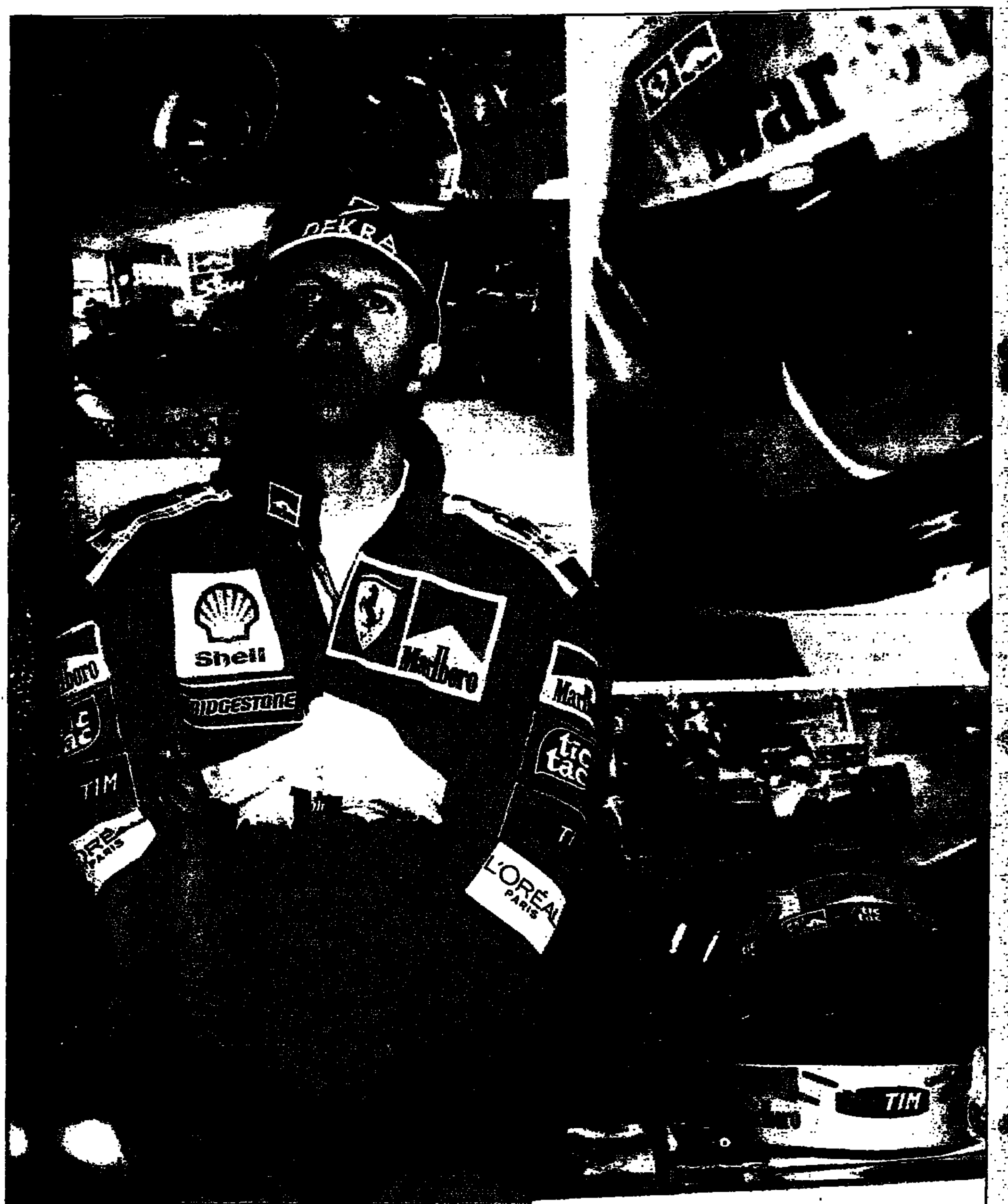
McLaren's initial form has confirmed the fears of most rivals that the British team remains the class of the field. As the silver cars monopolised the top of the timesheets, and the Stewart and Jordan teams enjoyed a day in the sun, Ferrari appeared to struggle. Michael Schumacher joined Coulthard, Damon Hill and Heinz-Harald Frentzen with off-course moments on the dusty track surface, and later lost more time with a gearbox problem which prevented him from running as many laps as he wanted. But he denied that Ferrari was in trouble. "Friday here is always a lottery," he said, "and I'm confident we will have the right set-up for the race on Sunday. That's what really matters."

Already the indications are that this will be another fast season. Tyre compounds are harder this year, now that Bridgestone has a monopoly in the aftermath of Goodyear's withdrawal and so there has been less need to undertake the sort of intensive development programme that characterised its first two seasons in the sport. But despite this, and the introduction of a fourth groove in the front tyres instead of the three from 1998 to slow lap times further, the cars are already faster than at a comparable point last year. Coulthard's pace yesterday was more than a second faster than his pace on the first day 12 months ago.

Ferrari's disappointing showing yesterday notwithstanding, McLaren naturally expects the Italian team to provide its strongest opposition as the season gathers momentum. "We didn't really expect the margin we had," Haug admitted. "But when it's Friday you never really know what set-up people are using. Certainly others may use the track better when there's more grip. A gap of 1.6 seconds to Ferrari obviously was not real. Everyone could see they weren't on the limit and, for sure, we know they will be very strong this year. But even if it's not 1.6sec, I'll be happy with 0.6sec or even 0.06sec, so long as we are in front."

Schumacher's final chance to end crusade

It has been 20 years since Ferrari last won a drivers' title. Now the team must deliver, or face the consequences. By **Derick Allsop**


Michael Schumacher, Ferrari's No 1, has a lot on his mind as he prepares for the new season, which starts tomorrow *Allsport*

THEY HAVE been saying "this is the year" from the moment Michael Schumacher joined the crusade but still they wait, as they have waited for a generation. This they say, would be the perfect year, the 20th anniversary of their last drivers' championship success.

However, conviction is fading like the memory of Jody Scheckter's distant achievement.

The gnawing doubts have been ever more evident through the winter and now, with the start of the Formula One season at hand, you sense Ferrari fear they are no nearer deliverance.

The nice symmetry of titles separated by two decades seems less likely than messy recrimination.

Even though Schumacher is still there, the faith has waned. Twice he almost made it but perhaps, as he pleads, he is not Superman after all. Just being the best driver in the world is not necessarily enough.

And yet, somehow he seemed to be more than that. All those sensational wins, defying logic and convention. Three years on, the people are becoming disillusioned. His crash into the back of David Coulthard in last season's Belgian Grand Prix and his subsequent, hysterical outburst, further tarnished an already grubby image.

This melancholy mood has engulfed Ferrari followers because they have learned to heed the proof of the clock rather than the propaganda material emanating from Maranello.

Mike Hakkinen's McLaren-Mercedes beat Schumacher's new car by almost half a second in a pre-season test at Barcelona, an ominous and gut-wrenching performance.

They will have tweaked the F399 since then and they will assuredly be tweaking it all the way to the startline at Melbourne tomorrow, where the championship gets under way. More importantly, Schumacher will be driving in earnest.

But can the gap be bridged? A year ago the circumstances were much the same, McLaren starting distinctly the stronger and Schumacher very nearly got there by the end. Has anything really changed? Can anything change? Especially the result? Unless Ferrari and Schumacher provide positive answers, this may prove a year too many.

Already there is conjecture of impending changes. Heads must rolls, yell the mob. Why must they? Jean Todt, the team's sporting director, cries back in defiance. The Frenchman doubtless recognises he would be among the first to be sacrificed and pleads the case for stability.

Todt and the rest of the organisation, all the way up to, and notably, the president, Luca di Montezemolo, have pointedly tempered their post-1998 season predictions. They no longer promise certain victory. Instead, they hint at a competitive effort and advise "let's wait and see".

It is debatable whether a "competitive effort" will be deemed good enough this time, either behind the portholes of Maranello or outside. If the call from the people for blood-letting is loud enough, the chances are those inside Ferrari will comply.

> *'Schumacher may have to win this season to convince the people he really is worth the money and the unsavoury baggage'*

Such is the scale of the season now confronting Formula One's most charismatic team. They have had stability for some considerable time, certainly by Italian political sporting standards, so the argument for change will be difficult to refute and gather a raging momentum.

Schumacher and Eddie Irvine are embarking on their fourth season as the drivers. Todt has been with the team almost six years. Ross Brawn, the technical director, followed Schumacher from Benetton to Ferrari in 1996, and Rory Byrne, the designer, was duly reunited with his former colleagues a year later.

Apart from Todt, the most obvious candidate for scapegoat would be Irvine, the Ulsterman who signed for Ferrari as Schumacher's No 2, shotgun rider, test stooge and general factotum.

His is supposed to do all that and be a more assertive racer.

Not that he helps his cause with an overtly contemptuous sneer for the world at large and for the Italian media in particular. You can get away with many faults and indiscretions if you are a winner. But when you are not winning, those many faults and indiscretions come home to roost. Ask Glenn Hoddle.

Rumours of Irvine's demise have been swirling around the pits and paddocks of grand prix racing since his first season with the Italians. The latest intelligence suggests that Ferrari's test driver, Luca Badoer, has been allowed to compete for Minardi this season in preparation for his elevation to the saddle of the Prancing Horse next year.

Jean Alesi, too, is linked with the job. He was sacked in 1995 to make way for Schumacher, but now the French-Sicilian and the German are friends.

But what of Schumacher and the Hoddle factor? His perceived arrogance and occasionally boorish behaviour have been tolerated by the people because of the unrivalled brilliance of his driving. Until now.

His shabby attempt to barge Jacques Villeneuve off the circuit at Jerez and win the championship in 1997 has not been forgotten. The accusations hurled at Coulthard in Belgium have also been filed at the back of the mind. And, come to think of it, there was that incident with Damon Hill in Australia...

Schumacher may have to win the championship, nothing less, this season, to convince the people he really is worth the money and the unsavoury baggage. They may take the view that, on balance, they would prefer to lose without him than with him.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner who gave Schumacher his first chance in grand prix racing, echoes the sentiments of many in the sport when he says that he tipped his former protégé for the drivers' championship last year but does not feel inclined to so again this time. Another team principal, Jackie Stewart, who has routinely acclaimed Schumacher as the outstanding driver of his era, wonders aloud whether the driver and his team may be burdened by too many inherent flaws.

"Michael could well win it and I'd be happy for Ferrari to take the championship again after 20 years," Stewart said. "But Schumacher is prone to making errors, as we saw last season. The incident with David Coulthard cost him the race and probably the championship.

"Ferrari themselves have a way of dropping the ball just when you feel they can't fail to score. They have all those resources, key personnel, the best driver, and yet it still hasn't happened for them. You have to wonder why."

The simple explanation is that someone else always seems to do it better than them. Last season it was McLaren, the two seasons before that it was Williams.

Second place to teams of that calibre is scarcely a disgrace. And had it not been for Ferrari, or Schumacher to be more precise, the past two championships would have been abject. Noble second places, however, can never represent fulfilment or provide ultimate satisfaction.

So it is that Schumacher, the acknowledged master of his craft, confronts the biggest challenge of his career. He says he is happy about the new car, confident it has potential, and optimistic it will be enable him to be more competitive than he was in the early stages of last season.

He also contends that if he does not win the championship, he will be back next season to try again. There are those who are not so sure.

Greene's speeches lack spice after taste of Bailey's

MIKE
ROWBOTTOM

SHORTLY BEFORE half past four on the opening day of the World Indoor Championships in Maebashi the crowd got up and left. Schooltime was over. Packing the stands with uniformed children was the only course of action for the organisers, who were faced with the embarrassing prospect of the Emperor and Empress of Japan presiding over an opening ceremony in an empty stadium.

It came as something of a shock when the orderly young citizens made their mass exit – as if a computer-simulated crowd had slithered out of a film backdrop.

The operation reminded me of the toilets in the Takasaki Metropolitan hotel, where a fresh condom of protective polythene around the toilet seat rotates into place at the touch of a button. But perhaps that's my problem. As an exercise in stop-gap diplomacy, at any rate, it was effective.

A similar kind of exercise had taken place the day before, when Maurice Greene, America's world 100 metres champion, was introduced to the media to discuss his prospects in the 60m at these championships.

The first question from his Japanese interlocutor was the journalistic equivalent of pawn to king four. "Are you going to break the world record?" Greene, to whom that 60m world record belongs, produced Stock Response No 1. "I can't run for a world record. All I can do is run as well as I can and hope that the world record will happen." Fair enough. No arguing with that.

Then he was asked a second, more awkward question. Did he consider the Japanese sprinters seated alongside him as a threat? The two home athletes, Koji Ito and Nobuharu Asahara, were respectably quick, but leagues adrift of the Kansas City star. Tact was called for. And Greene opted for Stock Response No 2. "When you go to the line in a world championship, you have to consider all your opponents as possible rivals," he said.

Not spectacular, but it did the job. No feelings hurt, no feathers ruffled. And later he completed an effective PR task as he shook his Japanese opponents daintily by the hand.

Now if that question had been asked of the previous world 100m champion, Donovan Bailey, the response would almost certainly have been less kind and more colourful. And, it has to be said, more interesting. When Greene defeated Bailey in the world 100m final in Athens two years ago, he seemed almost taken aback by his success. His comments afterwards, in a voice barely above a whisper, were dotted with references to the Lord.

It became embarrassing – and Bailey, obliged to sit beside the American for the duration of the formal press conference, began to register each religious reference with increasing amusement. The naturalised Canadian has never been a big fan of American sprinters.

Earlier in 1997, Bailey accused Michael Johnson, of being "a chicken and a faker" after the double Olympic medalist had pulled up during a one-on-one 150m challenge against him in Toronto. Offered the chance to modify his statement months afterwards, he thought for a moment and, with a wicked smile, repeated it. It was immediately clear that Bailey was no loss to the diplomatic service when he succeeded Linford Christie as world 100m champion in 1995.

The Briton finished the race prostrate, clutching his hamstring. Bailey insisted he was not injured, an assertion he expanded upon while in London the following year, rescuing a shoe company press conference from death by boredom.

After winning the 1996 Olympic 100m title, Bailey was at it again, this time when asked – by a Canadian, as I recall – how important it was to be running for Canada. He replied that he was, essentially, running for the country of his birth – Jamaica. That was his true country. Which left the Canadians cross, and the Jamaicans wondering why he wasn't wearing their colours.

Who knows what kind of perverse pleasure Bailey takes in this kind of thing? It would be unfair, however, to single him out. Only this week, the world 800m record holder Wilson Kipketer, born in Kenya but now running for Denmark, was getting himself into similar bother at the Maebashi championships. Asked how important it was to be competing for his new homeland, he replied: "I run for myself." Which was no doubt true, but not the response either expected or required.

For undiplomatic sporting utterances, however, there is still nothing to match Alf Ramsey's comment at Glasgow Airport after his World Cup-winning England team had arrived to play their oldest rivals. On being greeted with the words "Welcome to Scotland", he responded, with characteristic emphasis: "You must be joking."

هكذا من الاصل

Five Nations' Championship: Wales choose six leaders to upset Tricolores at Stade de France

French mountain awaits the Welsh

By David Llewellyn

TO SAY that Wales were edgy in the run-in to today's Five Nations showdown with France in Paris is an understatement judging by yesterday's activities at the Stade de France.

Prior to their team's work-out at the ground, Welsh officials conducted a search of the stadium to ensure that there were no French spies lurking in the shadows. It is to be hoped that the players themselves will be as security conscious when they take the field against the Championship favourites this afternoon.

With two defeats, against Scotland and Ireland, already behind them, the Dragons are hotly tipped to be left with the wooden spoon and only the third whitewash in their Championship history.

France, on the other hand, are well on course for their third successive Grand Slam, an unprecedented feat but one that is not beyond them. Their manager, Jo Maso, is more bullish: "I sincerely believe that we have the players to help us become World Champions."

And he singled out captain Raphael Ibanez for special mention. "He has rediscovered himself," enthused Maso. "He has grown in stature and taken on another dimension. He has become the perfect interface between players and management."

The Dragons are clearly in need of a whole lot more puff than they have revealed to date and a touch of magic would probably not go amiss. But their coach, Graham Henry, appears undaunted. He recognises the task today is enormous. And during the build-up in this last week he admitted: "In the 25 or so years of coaching this is the greatest challenge I have ever had as a rugby coach."

But there was a glimmer of optimism when he added: "There are times when I have thought this is Everest but, then, Sir Edmund Hillary – a New Zealander – conquered that, so who knows?"

Henry is of course a New Zealander himself. He is on a contract with the Welsh Rugby Union reputed to be worth £1.5 million over five years, a sum that will begin to look like a mountainous pile of cash if Wales finish the Five Nations with nothing.

They go into the game with just four of the side – captain Robert Howley, Neil Jenkins, Garin Jenkins and Colin Charvis – that was crushed by France and tipped over the side of the mountain last year when they lost by a record 51-0 to the *Tricolores*.

It has been said that Wales lacked leadership against Ireland. They cannot be accused of that in this match. The four survivors from last year's French humiliation are included among half-a-dozen chiefs in the Wales team, as the management has tried to delegate responsibility on the field.

Howley's role is overall captain, and he said: "I don't think there should be 15 captains out there."

No, quite. But six clearly is an acceptable number. It must be, because for this match Howley has five lieutenants; hooker Garin Jenkins is responsible for the scrummage, No 8 Scott Quinnell has charge of the line-out calls, flanker Colin Charvis is responsible for defensive organisation, Neil Jenkins is kicking captain and Scott Gibbs has been put in charge of the midfield organisation. Henry explained: "I think it's important that senior players take responsibility for certain areas of the game. It brings them on as players." So France are going to be treated to six of the best.

As for what is left of the team, Wales supporters just have to hope that the six do not all speak at the same time. The multiple appointments should mean that there will be better discipline in the ranks. The Ireland defeat was laid squarely at the feet of the few who lost their heads at critical moments. They have been duly censured for their irresponsible behaviour and manager David Pickering said yesterday: "We hope intelligence will take the place of bashing and brawling."

Anyway, Henry is able to draw on one positive thought: "There was a 20 minute passage of play against the Irish when we did what we had been practising. We have to build on that and turn those 20 minutes into 40, then 60 and finally 80 minutes."

That will have to start today. They are not even at base camp. The summit awaits, but it is shrouded in cloud. This looks like being the start of a tough climb for Wales.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	1	0	1	54	44	2
Ireland	2	1	0	1	38	33	2
England	1	1	0	0	24	21	2
France	1	1	0	0	10	9	2
Wales	2	0	0	2	43	62	0

RESULTS: 6 Feb: Ireland 9 France 10; Scotland 33 Wales 20. **20 Feb** England 24 Scotland 21; Wales 23 Ireland 29.

FIXTURES: 6 March: France v Wales *(at Stade de France)*; Ireland v England *(at Lansdowne Road)*. **20 March:** England v France *(at Twickenham)*; Scotland v Ireland *(at Murrayfield)*. **10 April:** France v Scotland *(at Stade de France)*. **11 April:** Wales v England *(at Wembley)*.

FRANCE v WALES

at Stade de France

France			Wales	
Ntamack	(Toulouse)	15	**S Howarth**	(Sale)
Bernat-Salles	(Biarritz)	14	**M Robinson**	(Swansea)
R Dourthe	(Stade Français)	13	**M Taylor**	(Swansea)
F Comba	(Stade Français)	12	**S Gibbs**	(Swansea)
T Lombard	(Stade Français)	11	**D James**	(Pontypridd)
T Castaignède	(Castres)	10	**N Jenkins**	(Pontypridd)
P Carbonneau	(Brive)	9	**R Howley**	(Cardiff, capt)
C Califano	(Toulouse)	1	**P Rogers**	(London Irish)
R Ibanez	(Perpignan, capt)	2	**G Jenkins**	(Swansea)
F Tournaire	(Toulouse)	3	**B Evans**	(Swansea)
O Brouzet	(Begles-Bordeaux)	4	**C Quinnell**	(Richmond)
F Pelous	(Toulouse)	5	**C Wyatt**	(Llanelli)
P Benetton	(Agen)	6	**C Charvis**	(Swansea)
M Raynaud	(Narbonne)	7	**B Sinkinson**	(Neath)
T Lièvremont	(Perpignan)	8	**S Quinnell**	(Llanelli)

Replacements: 16 **C Laussucq** (Stade Français); 17 **D Aucagne** (Pau); 18 **X Garbajosa** (Toulouse); 19 **R Castel** (Beziers); 20 **D Auradou**; 21 **S Marconnet** (Both Stade Français); 22 **M Dal Maso** (Colomiers).

Replacements: 16 K Morgan (Pontypridd); **17 G Thomas** (Cardiff); **18 D Llewellyn** (Ebbw Vale); **19 M Voyle** (Llanelli); **20 J Davies** (Llanelli); **21 A Lewis** (Cardiff); **22 B Williams** (Richmond).

Referee: J Fleming (Scotland)

Kick-off: 2.0 (BBC1)

Matt Perry during England training at Blackrock College in Dublin, before today's Five Nations game against Ireland *Allsport*

Perry back in position with high expectations

England's young full-back set for tough examination by Ireland. By **Chris Hewett**

IT RAINED like never before – a torrent, a deluge, a monsoon, damn it – and from first minute to last, the green-shirted half-backs sent steepling kicks high into the morass of low cloud rolling in from the coast. As each ball plummeted from the stratosphere into the English 22, the midfield vultures and back-row hyenas gathered to pick over the carcass of their prey, a frail figure clad in blood-smeared white. And time and again, the Springbok scavengers retreated with their bellies empty and their hunger still raging. Matthew Perry, 12 stones dripping wet and as shy as a mouse, was having none of it.

Had it not been for the dark slab of Table Mountain looming a mile or two to the north of Cape Town's forbidding Newlands amphitheatre, England's unassuming young full-back might easily have been in Dublin on an old-fashioned Five Nations afternoon. As he will be today, indeed, his international career on track once again after a two-match interruption. The Irish will, of course, trot out their traditional "welcome to Lansdowne Road and how's that for starters?" routine – stick it up in the ether and we'll see what he's made of – but Perry will barely bat an eyelid. When you have seen the Boks at uncomfortably close quarters, you have pretty much seen it all.

"An interesting afternoon out, that one at Newlands," he agreed this week, recalling last summer's labours south of the equator. "It was a kitchen sink job, that's for sure. The conditions were end-of-the-worldish and while the Boks had most of the ball, there was not much they could do except hang it high and wait for the rebounds. In those circumstances, it is all down to the full-back. You can't shirk your responsibilities and, hopefully, I stood up to be counted. I didn't kick as well as I would have liked that day – I missed a couple of touches and got a few looks from the pack – and no one ever feels great when they lose a Test match. But in purely personal terms, I look back on that game as a big experience."

Clive Woodward, the England coach, unhesitatingly applied the "world class" tag to Perry's performance, going so far as to add that he now considered the 21-year-old Bath rookie a senior England player. Sure enough, his was among the first names on the team sheet as last autumn's international programme kicked off, but after creating the only try of a bitterly frustrating Cook Cup encounter with the Wallabies at Twickenham in November, Perry was belatedly diagnosed as suffering from concussion and immediately ruled out of the return fixture with the South Africans. Enter a major threat to his future, in the shape of Northampton's Nick Beal.

It was, Perry freely admits, a severe disappointment, a hollow moment in a career already pockmarked by sudden, unforeseen setbacks. "When you go through a summer tour like last year's – let's be honest, it was an extremely difficult few weeks – it hurts when you miss out on a big occasion at Twickenham. After all the stick the Springboks dished out in Cape Town, I'd have loved the satisfaction of beating them in London, especially as we denied them the world record they were chasing. Still, I know enough about Test rugby now to realise that no one gets it all their own way."

The same goes for rugby at club level, too, as Perry has discovered to his cost. Last season, he lost his place in Bath's European Cup final-winning team, not because of any loss of form on his part but because Mike Catt's goal-kicking radar was so chronically unreliable that the West Countrymen felt they had no option but to drag dear old Jon Callard away from his pipe and slippers. A week later, Woodward picked Catt ahead of Perry for the Five Nations opener in Paris – a decision the coach regretted almost as soon as he had committed himself to it.

Those lacerating twists of fortune, bracketed together with the travails and torments of the summer tour and some serious physical and mental fatigue – he played 14 Tests in as many months, which was as many as Don Rutherford, Alastair Hignell and Simon Hodgkinson managed in their careers as England full-backs – go a long way towards explaining the temporary drift of club form that affected Perry either side of Christmas. He endured a particularly rough afternoon at Newcastle, where Jonny Wilkinson ruthlessly exposed his low levels of confidence, and when Bath started to play him at outside-half, his critics wondered whether a brilliant international future might already be behind him.

In actual fact, the shift to No 10 has been a crucial factor in his swift rehabilitation. "Confidence is such a big factor in sport at this level and when things aren't going particularly well, either personally or in the team context, it tends to drag you down. I found games were passing me by somehow, that I wasn't getting involved nearly enough. It wasn't for the want of trying – as far as I could see, I was playing my usual game – but when you're a little low, things don't happen for you.

"For that reason, I was delighted to get a few runs at outside-half. You're automatically involved there; you get your hands on the ball, you call the shots, you make things happen. It was incredibly refreshing to get out there and control a game. I played most of my school rugby at stand-off, so I knew my way around the position, and I'd been putting in so much work on my kicking anyway that there was no real problem finding my feet again. It's been therapeutic, definitely. I feel right on top of things again."

Perry makes less noise than most about his rugby; he is almost painfully modest, despite having so little to be modest about. He is, however, a driven professional, a fanatically committed worker who has set himself the ultimate goal of "completeness", as he likes to put it. "I work three days a week on my kicking because I want to be able to kick goals at the very highest level," he says. "I also want to feel comfortable in any position Bath or England might choose to play me.

"Versatility is central to the modern game, in my view. The days of centres, wings, full-backs and outside-halves all doing their own specialist thing in their own little world have long gone. You have to be able to do it all now – run, tackle, pass, catch, kick, protect the ball – and you have to do it well, too. There is absolutely no point a back carrying the ball into contact if he cannot recycle it like a flanker."

For all that, Woodward and the rest of the red rose hierarchy will be happy if their last line of defence restricts himself to a faultless demonstration of the full-back's art this afternoon. As Marcus Rose, one of his predecessors in the No 15 shirt, once said on the eve of a Five Nations shindig in Dublin: "This is DFA territory," an abbreviation that stood for "Don't fool around" or something very similar. Reassuringly for England, Matt Perry is nobody's fool.

> *'The days of full-backs, outside-halves, centres and wings doing their own specialist thing have long gone. You have to do it all now and you have to do it well'*

From cradle to the table

ANNALISA BARBIERI

ON FISHING

ALTHOUGH THERE are variations from water to water the close season for trout finished on 1 March. So it seems a good time to talk about trout.

Trout are members of the salmanoid family, all of which are distinctive because of their second dorsal fin – the adipose fin. In salmonoids this fin is almost nonexistent and serves no real purpose and yet for some reason evolution has not erased it. Salmonoids have been around for 10 million years and are descendants of the teleosts, or bony fish, that go back 70 million years.

Although most folk who don't fish (and I know that can only be one or two of you) will say "rainbow" if asked to name a trout, our only indigenous trout is the brown trout, salmo trutta. These live in places where the air temperature does not go below zero degrees Fahrenheit or above 80.

The rainbow trout was introduced to this country some years ago – they grow fast and survive well – although they occur naturally only in the rivers of the west coast of America and from Alaska down to the Gulf of California. Rainbows used to be known as salmo gairdneri (salmo relates to European trout/salmon) but are now recognised as belonging to the Pacific salmon group of fish and hence have the hideously tricky name of oncorhynchus mykiss (oncorhynchus identifies Pacific fish).

Brown trout spawn in November and December and the egg hatches after 30 to 50 days into an alevin, an embryonic fish with a yolk sac attached from which it feeds. Alevin are quite naked, with no scales; they only start to grow them when they become fry. The scales grow from the outside and these are called "growth rings". They can tell you lot about a fish – when it ate loads and grew, when it was spawning etc.

When this food source dries up the fish wriggles its way out of the gravel in which it was born and rests on the bottom of the river to eat any suitable morsels of food. At this stage in its life it looks like a tiny trout and becomes a fry (which instantly – I know it shouldn't – makes me think of tiny, delicious, fried fish). Frys then turn into parr – the teenage stage of a fish's life – and they remain so for up to three years.

Trout will either stay in the fresh water where they were born or the more rebellious of them will go to sea. At the adolescent stage of their lives, just as in humans, there is no way of telling which way they will turn out. (A brown trout that goes to sea will become a sea trout, whereas a migratory rainbow is called a steelhead, although the sea-going urge doesn't generally happen to rainbows outside their native waters.) When they become fully fledged adults they will lose their parr markings and either start to take on the colours of the freshwater fish, or turn silver and move downstream. If this happens they will have become smolts – fish that have decided they want to go to sea.

Trout have 180-degree vision with a crossover of 30 degrees at the front, as this is where they most often attack. But on the riverbank, the lower down an object is the more difficult it is for them to see it. Hence the need for skulking along banks and learning to cast sideways – which is a good idea for particularly shy fish.

Just like us, a trout has rods and cones – light-sensitive bits of the retina – although a trout has different levels and configurations of them. Rods are very sensitive to light and cones help the trout distinguish colours – they are particularly partial to reds, least partial to blue.

So remember this when you're casting away for your first trout of the year! Also remember that although the trout's tail isn't great for sustained speed it can, momentarily, exert a force six times that of gravity. And it will do just that when you first strike – which is why you need to keep that rod tip up to absorb the pressure. Good hunting.

a.barbieri@independent.co.uk

Tait wary of Italian threat

By Wyn Griffiths

SCOTLAND CENTRE Alan Tait has warned his team-mates to forget any thoughts of a simple task against Italy today today as he aims to erase the memory of last year's defeat in Treviso. The Lion will be at the heart of the midfield battle in the friendly against Italy at Murrayfield, as Jim Telfer's team try to retain the momentum generated by their first two matches in this year's Five Nations campaign.

A victory over Wales at Murrayfield and a near miss at Twickenham a fortnight ago has caused a rising tide of optimism among Scottish supporters. The Italy game is expected to provide further evidence of an upturn in fortunes, although Tait is adopting a cautious approach.

One of four survivors from the starting line-up that finally succumbed 25-21 under a barrage of Italian pressure in Treviso last January, the Edinburgh Reiver and former rugby league player is anxious to avoid a repeat showing.

"The Italians left a lot of memories last year, and they were not good ones," he admitted. "Even though we were winning right up until the last five minutes, it didn't feel like we were in front. We were under the cosh for the whole game."

Tait will be hoping to maintain his try-scoring streak. A vital effort as a replacement against Wales and a double at Twickenham took his tally to 12 tries in only 19 Tests, and provided further evidence of a back division with a clear cutting edge.

"I think the public are expecting us to just move on and take Italy in our stride," Telfer said. "But they are a fairly similar side to the one that played against us [in Treviso] and are more experienced now, whereas we have a vastly changed side.

"There is no way we are taking this one lightly. It is just like a Six Nations match to us and we have prepared accordingly."

SCOTLAND: G Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians); **C Murray** (Edinburgh Reivers), **A Tait** (Edinburgh Reivers), **J Leslie** (Sanix), **K Logan** (Wasps); **G Townsend** (Brive), **I Fairley** (Edinburgh Reivers); **T Smith** (Glasgow Caledonians), **G Bulloch** (Glasgow Caledonians), **P Burnell** (London Scottish), **S Murray** (Bedford), **S Grimes** (Glasgow Caledonians), **P Walton** (Newcastle Falcons), **E Peters** (Bath, capt), **M Leslie** (Edinburgh Reivers). **Replacements: S Longstaff** (Glasgow Caledonians), **C Chalmers** (Edinburgh Reivers), **G Burns** (Edinburgh Reivers), **B Pountney** (Northampton), **A Reed** (Wasps), **D Hilton** (Bath), **S Brotherstone** (Edinburgh Reivers).

ITALY: J Pertile (RDS Roma); **D Dallan** (Benetton Treviso), **C Stoica** (Narbonne), **L Martin** (Begles Bordeaux), **F Roselli** (RDS Roma); **D Dominguez** (Stade Français), **A Troncon** (Benetton Treviso); **F Properzi** (Benetton Treviso), **A Moscardi** (Benetton Treviso), **A Castellani** (RDS Roma), **M Giacheri** (West Hartlepool), **W Cristofoletto** (Benetton Treviso), **M Giovanelli** (Narbonne), **C Checchinato** (Benetton Treviso), **A Sgorlon** (Benetton Treviso). **Replacements: G Mazzi** (RDS Roma), **L Pavin** (Benetton Treviso), **M Baroni** (Padova), **S Saviozzi** (Benetton Treviso), **M Cuttitta** (Fly Flot Calvisano), **S Stocco** (Padova), **C Caione** (RDS Roma).

Staunton inspires the Irish

By Paul Stephens
at St Mary's College, Dublin

Ireland U21	23
England U21	5

JEREMY STAUNTON was the creative force behind Ireland's comprehensive victory in this Under 21 international at St Mary's College, Dublin yesterday, as England felt the full force of the home forwards, to fall to a fourth successive defeat at this level against Ireland.

Given that England were unbeaten this season, having already seen off South Africa and Scotland, while the Ireland pack were outplayed by Wales at Caerphilly a fortnight ago, the way the Irish forwards reconstructed their game was nothing short of remarkable.

Led splendidly by Robert Casey, who was able to celebrate by scoring Ireland's third try, the Blackrock lock received outstanding support from Richard Woods who unsettled England with some ferocious tackling. It was the collective effort of the pack that laid the winning foundations. Sure there was plenty of the destructive mayhem that passes for creativity in most Irish teams, but there was also composure and control where and when it was needed. Mostly it was provided by Staunton.

A gifted Gaelic footballer, Staunton kicks well and long from either foot; he also has pace, strength and an instinctive eye for the opening. He was the provider for Tom Keating to score Ireland's opening try, by which time Geordan Murphy had already kicked two penalty goals.

England's best period was in the final 10 minutes of the half. But Peter Richards went solo when the England forwards were in a good position to drive over the line, and the chance of a confidence-boosting try went begging. Turning round 11-0 adrift, England badly needed a score. But with their support for the ball carrier so woeful and their finishing almost as bad, one didn't materialise until Ireland allowed Rob Thirlby to steal away for a try in the final quarter.

From there it was all downhill as England ran out of replacements and used up their limited stock of ideas, before Casey thundered across to seal victory.

Ireland U21: Tries B O'Driscoll, Casey, Keating; **Conversion** Murphy; **Penalties** Murphy 2. **England Under 21: Try** Thirlby.

Ireland U21: G Murphy; D Quinlan; K Hartigan, B O'Driscoll, T Keating; J Staunton, P Stringer; M Horan, P Smyth, J Campbell (S Barretto 64), M O'Driscoll, R Casey, P Neville (D O'Callaghan 79), R Woods, L Cullen (capt).

England Under 21: I Balshaw (M Walker 55); R Thirlby, B Johnston, M Tindall, L Best; D Walder (J Pritchard, 30), P Richards (J Bramhall, 49); D Flatman (M Ward, 40), S Walter, J Dawson, S Borthwick, A Brown (J Rule, 49), A Sanderson (capt), L Moody (A Hazel, 82), A Balding. **Referee:** H Lewis (Wales).

Colin Jackson has a slight advantage over the first flight of hurdles in yesterday's World Indoor Championships 60m hurdles final. Jackson won Britain's first gold medal in 7.38sec *Allsport*

Jackson finally hits the jackpot

ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Maebashi, Japan

TEN MINUTES after earning Britain's first world athletics title in four years, Colin Jackson bumped into Malcolm Arnold, the coach who has guided his hurdling career since he was a schoolboy. "Not bad, eh?" said Arnold, his blue eyes crinkling into a wide grin. "Thank you sir", said the newly-established world indoor 60m hurdles champion as he engulfed Arnold in a hug. "At long bleeding last." At the age of 32, six years after becoming world 110m hurdles champion, Jackson had re-established himself at the top of his event with a performance that, for sheer, singleminded determination, he has never bettered.

Bending almost double in the last few strides, he held off the challenge of the 23-year-old US champion Reggie Torian to earn the only major title to have eluded him in his career other than the Olympic one.

That ambition still glimmers ahead for the Welshman, who appeared to be on a downward spiral out of the sport when he finished a dispirited fourth at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

But a combination of factors – including a renewal of his links with Arnold, a successful operation on an injured knee and a shedding of his responsibilities with Nuff Respect, the agency he founded with Linford Christie – has seen Jackson revive his career.

An unexpected silver medal at the 1997 World Championships showed he was still a contender, and last year he won a third successive European title.

Now, however, he has confirmed his return with a global title, the first claimed by a British athlete since Jonathan Edwards won the 1995 world triple jump title.

"I knew I had to win this," he said. "No messing about. There were no excuses, no injuries, no niggles. I had to win it for my head's sake and I'm really, really pleased I did what I expected of myself. It's a huge testing time when it's a mental, not a physical thing."

Jackson's winning time of 7.38sec was the fastest in the world this year, and only 0.08sec off the world record he set in 1994. Torian, who had led the world standings coming into this competition, was 0.02sec behind, with Falk Balzer of Germany taking bronze.

The Briton's concentration was tested to the limit by three false starts, the last of them down to him. But he was still able to go for broke when the race finally got under way, getting a superb start with a reaction time of 0.111sec – legal by just eleven hundredths of a second. In tennis terms, it was an ace on his second serve.

"Colin's a risk taker," said Arnold. "If you don't take risks, you won't win." Defeat, however, was something Jackson had refused to contemplate. "I don't want to sound arrogant, but I only came here to win. It was No 1 or nothing for me. It's important that Britain has a world champion once more – it's something the nation can brag about, and I'm pleased I kicked it off. We can win a few more in the next couple of days."

Torian was convinced that his own finish – twisting one shoulder forwards – should have brought him the title. "I am not congratulating him as a winner," he said. "I thought I won by at least half an arm." Jackson's face was blank at the post-race press conference as the American, sitting beside him, repeated his claim. "It was a very tight race, but I think I won it," he said. US team officials, however, did not bother to lodge an official protest after studying the photo-finish. It was a graceless performance from a man who, reportedly, aspires to becoming an actor.

But Jackson's satisfaction in a job well done was not spoiled by the protestations of the competitor he had expected to be his main rival here.

After suffering two defeats this season through what he believed to have been false starts, he had been comforted by the evidence that the recall equipment installed at these championships was being properly used. "Right from the beginning of the heats the officials were being very strict, and this helped me stay calm even after three false starts in the final."

After three silver medals in this event, Jackson had his gold. He plans to add another at this summer's outdoor World Championships in Seville, where Torian's fellow American Allen Johnson, who missed this weekend's competition because of injury, is expected to defend his title. "If I don't win in Seville then I will feel I have let myself down," Jackson said.

Earlier on the opening day of the seventh IAAF World Indoor Championships, Haile Gebrselassie, known to his many supporters as The Emperor, won the 3,000m title in a stadium that had just been vacated by Japan's own Emperor and the bulk of the spectators, most of whom were schoolchildren.

The Ethiopian, who was both bemused and amused by the virtual silence which greeted his efforts, was hoping to win another $50,000 (£32,000) win-bonus in the final day's 1500m final. He conserved energy before producing a killing burst over the final 600 metres, which he covered in 85 seconds.

Nastja Rysich, of Germany, won the women's pole vault with 4.50m – Emma George, Australia's world record holder, pulled out with a hamstring injury after clearing 4.35m.

John Regis, fourth fastest in the world over 200m this year, made a disappointing first-round exit, failing to hold the bend of the track.

Depleted Surbiton test their resources

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

WITH THE top four Premier Division play-off places just about certain, realistically only Guildford has the chance of displacing either Reading, Cannock, Southgate or Canterbury, interest this weekend centres on the top of the First Division.

The battle for the title looks to have narrowed down to a two-horse race. Both the leaders, Surbiton, and Doncaster – one point behind – will be depleted. Surbiton, who make the long trip to Hull, will be without three key players – Craig Fulton, Wayne Bentley and Greg Nicol – who are away on international duty with South Africa.

Nicol, Surbiton's top scorer, who only appeared after Christmas, has notched 17 goals in just six games to shoot them to the top. Also missing is James Webber, who is one of a number of Under-18 players absent because of an England training camp at Bisham Abbey.

Doncaster, away to Firebrands, also have their absentees. In addition to Taran Nijjar at Bisham, they will be without Neil Withington and Nigel Land from their midfield.

"Firebrands are difficult to beat at home and the going will be tough," Doncaster coach Alan Stoves said, "but our destiny will be in our own hands."

TODAY'S NUMBER

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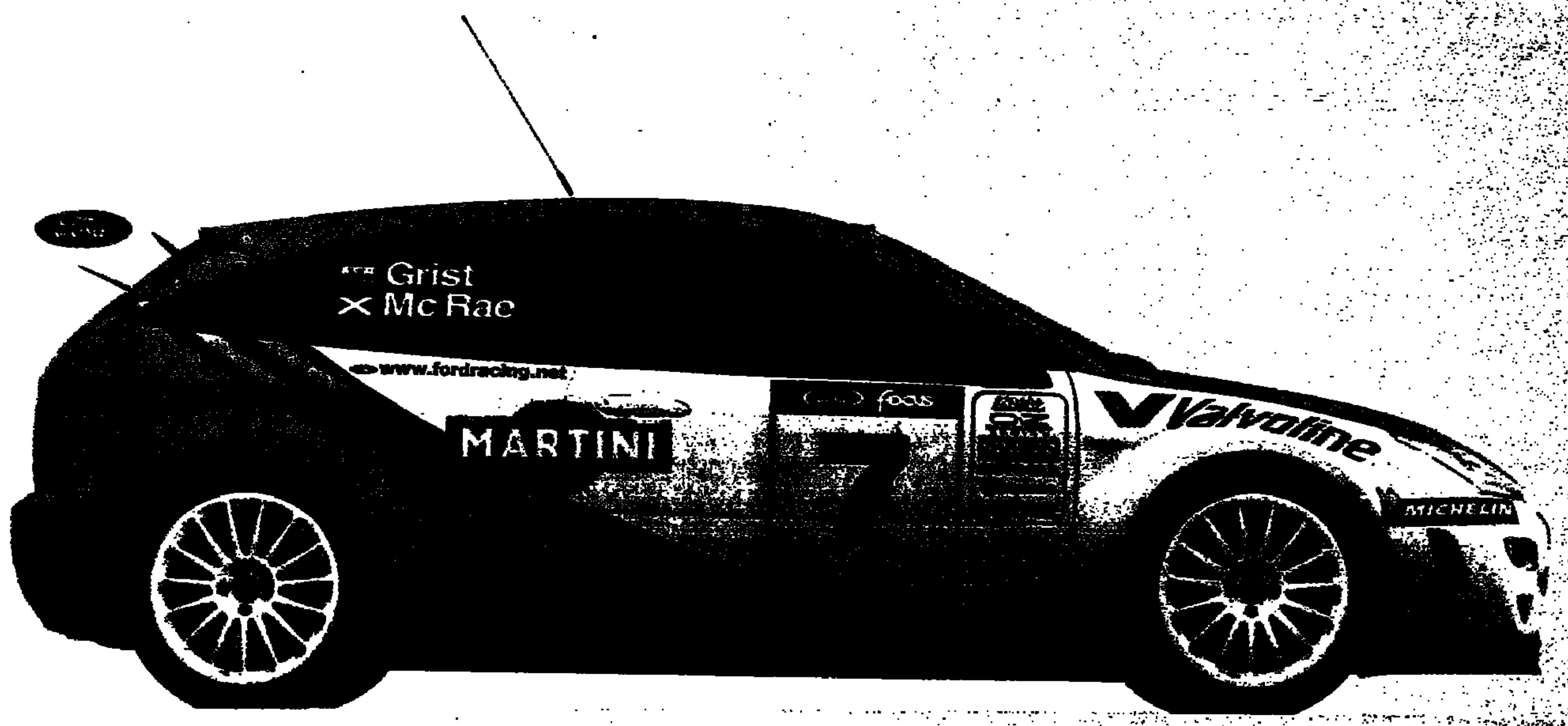

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Collins strikes first for W Indies

CRICKET

BY TONY COZIER
in Port-of-Spain

Australia 51-2
v West Indies

AUSTRALIA BATTLED against testing West Indian bowling and struggled to 51 for 2 at lunch on the opening day of the first test at the Queen's Park Oval yesterday.

The visitors, batting after winning the toss, had numerous alarms as the new-ball pair of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose found the grassy Oval pitch to their liking. Walsh and Ambrose, who together have accounted for 747 wickets in 192 tests, went past both opening batsmen's edges constantly in the opening half hour.

But Michael Slater and his partner Matthew Elliott survived that period. They saw off the experienced duo before they were separated by the first change fast bowler Pedro Collins, on his debut, with the score on 42.

Slater had made 23 before he swung a catch straight down long leg's throat off a wayward delivery from the left-armer Collins. Slater batted 61 minutes, faced 48 balls and scored one of only two boundaries hit across the sluggish outfield.

Elliott and fellow left-hander Justin Langer never established themselves and they added just nine runs in 13 overs before Langer fell minutes before the interval. Recalled for a second spell from the Pavilion end, Walsh found Langer's edge through to the wicketkeeper from his first ball delivered around the wicket. Langer never looked comfortable during the 36 balls and 54 minutes it took to score his five runs.

Elliott, who looked shaky throughout the session, was unbeaten on 15 off 88 balls at the break, with Mark Waugh having faced two balls and yet to score.

The 36-year-old Walsh took 1 for 11 off eight overs, taking his tally of wickets to 398 in 107 Tests and 99 in his 30th Test against Australia.

Collins, 22, found a perfect line and length and was rewarded with figures of 1 for 13 off eight successive overs. Collins was one of three new caps in the home team, along with 30-year-old Trinidad and Tobago opening batsman Suruj Ragoonath and middle-order player Dave Joseph, a 29-year-old from Antigua.

There was concern for the West Indies when Roland Holder injured his ankle while diving for a ball in the outfield and was forced to leave the field. He was taken away for X-rays.

First day: Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA – First Innings

M J Slater c Dillon b Collins 23
M T G Elliott not out 15
J L Langer c Jacobs b Walsh 5
M E Waugh not out 0
Extras (8lb) 8
Total (for 2, 29 overs) 51

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-51.

To bat: *S R Waugh, G S Blewett, †I A Healy, S K Warne, J N Gillespie, S E G MacGill, G D McGrath.

Bowling: C Walsh 8-5-11-1, C Ambrose 9-5-10-0, P Collins 8-4-13-1, M Dillon 4-2-9-0.

WEST INDIES: S L Campbell, S Ragoonath, *B C Lara, R I C Holder, J C Adams, D Joseph, †R D Jacobs, C E L Ambrose, M Dillon, P T Collins, C A Walsh.

Umpires: E Nichols (West Indies), P Willey (England).

TV replay umpire: C Cumberbatch (West Indies).

Match referee: R Subba Row (England).

■ New Zealand Cricket officials have been left embarrassed and angry after World Cup organizers ignored a request to keep a preliminary squad secret. The NZC had not told the players on the list because the international season is still on and it did not want players who missed out to be discouraged.

The Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayawardene is bowled by Saqlain Mushtaq as Moin Khan looks on *Reuters*

Arnold leads Sri Lankan charge

Pakistan 398
Sri Lanka 189-4

SRI LANKA are poised for a place in the final of the Asian Test Championship after the second day of their match against Pakistan in Lahore. The visitors were 189 for 4 after 48.2 overs at the close of play, needing to reach 300 in 100 overs to edge into the final.

Opener Russell Arnold was unbeaten on 81, and Romesh Kaluwitharana was on 20 after a day shortened by 8.4 overs due to bad light. Pakistan made 398 in their first innings with opener Wasti Wajahatullah hitting his maiden Test century.

Sri Lanka, who need seven points from the match to qualify for the final, earned four bowling points by grabbing nine Pakistani wickets inside 100 overs and then gained one batting point with their charge late in the day.

Arnold and the debutant Avishka Gunewardene gave Sri Lanka a flying start of 84 in 14 overs. Gunewardene made 43 before hooking straight into the hands of Shahid Nazir.

Mahela Jayawardene was bowled for four and Saqlain Mushtaq then dismissed Marvan Atapattu (23) and captain Hashan Tillakaratne for nine.

Earlier Pakistan, resuming at 198 for 3, lost their remaining wickets and scored 200 runs to be all out for 398. Paceman Pramodya Wickremasinghe returned career-best figures of 6 for 103, beating his previous best of 5 for 73.

ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP (Lahore, Pakistan; Second day of five): Pakistan First Innings 398 (Wajahatullah Wasti 133, Yousuf Youhana 83, Moin Khan 57; Wickramasinghe 6-103, Kalpage 2-75). Sri Lanka First Innings 189-4 (R P Arnold 81no, A Gunawardene 43; Saqlain Mushtaq 3-45).

Imposing debuts for new clubs

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

ON THE FIRST Sunday of the new Super League season, much of the attention will inevitably be focused on how the newcomers fare. Wakefield Trinity, the First Division champions accepted into the élite after much prevarication, get the first crack – and there is unlikely to be much neighbourly charity at Castleford.

More revealing, as a gauge of success both on and off the field, will be Gateshead Thunder's home game against Leeds, many people's choice as likely Grand Final winners this year. Gateshead could have hoped for their first fixture to pan out differently. They would have preferred not to have played in the evening, not on television and not with Newcastle United at home the same day. They could also have wished for less daunting opposition and it is a shame that they could not afford even a token non-Australian in their 17.

Leeds bring Barrie McDermott straight back after suspension, in place of Martin Masella – a sure sign that your transgressions are forgiven more quickly when you are in good form than when you aren't. Andy Hay replaces Adrian Morley in the second row, although Morley's hamstring injury might ease sufficiently for him to be on the bench, alongside the 18-year-old Kevin Sinfield.

If Gateshead keep it close, there will be the inevitable grumbles about family favours within the Hetherington household; Gary is Leeds' chief executive and his wife, Kath, is the Thunder's director. If they do manage it, though, it will be through the efforts of what should settle down as a very good squad, even if it has too much to do tomorrow. Castleford have their major close season signing, Aaron Raper, back after missing the Challenge Cup victory over York with a knee injury. That will only make Wakefield's job harder and they could do with an inspiring performance from their new captain, Tony Kemp, playing against his old club.

Warrington's Cup victory over Halifax makes tomorrow's return fixture at The Shay an intriguing one, while one of the most eagerly anticipated partnerships of the season gets its first Super League outing at Bradford, Robbie Paul having recovered from a knee injury in time to play alongside brother Henry against Sheffield.

The Sheffield coach, John Kear, will decide whether to involve Matt Crowther, Steve Molloy and Michael Jackson after seeing whether they have any reaction to last night's reserve fixture between the two clubs.

Anthony Sullivan is again missing from St Helens' squad at Salford after playing rugby union for Wales A in France last night. Teenagers Paul Wellens, Tim Jonkers and Mark Edmunson are the likely replacements for injured forwards Chris Joynt, Sonny Nickle and Keiron Cunningham.

Martin Offiah is to play for the London Broncos at home to Huddersfield despite the fatal shooting of his father in Nigeria this week, but the club's other first-choice winger, Rob Smyth, is out following a blow to the head at Hull KR and is replaced by Brett Warton.

Townsend and Smith turn tables on tourists

BY MARK HARGREAVES
in Cape Town

England A 350 v
UCB President's XI

ENGLAND A suffered a flurry of wickets as their dominant overnight position evaporated on the second morning in their five-day match against the President's XI at Cape Town and finished the innings on 350 all out. Resuming at 259 for 3 with a total of 500 in their sights, England A had to revise their aspirations as early as the first over when Andrew Flintoff (70) got a nick behind to a ball angled across him by Greg Smith.

This set the tone for a session that was to see the tourists scramble to a disappointing total of 350. England's troubles increased when Vikram Solanki fell victim to the last ball of the second for a duck. Again it was a swinging delivery, this time from David Townsend, that drew Solanki forward before leaving him to take the edge on its way to second slip.

Graeme Swann arrived at the wicket needing a substantial innings, both for himself and for his side, and began in sparkling style with a spate of early boundaries. Townsend had the last laugh, though, when the Northamptonshire youngster played a loose shot wide of the off-stump to offer a simple catch to first slip having scored 21.

Darren Maddy's 410-minute innings eventually came to an end on 135, having resumed on 122, when he cut straight to point, in a disappointing end to an innings of real quality.

At 293 for 7 there was a grave danger that England would fall way short of a reasonable total. But not for the first time on the tour the wicketkeeper Chris Read came to the rescue by playing sensibly and with great determination.

Darren Thomas also played his part in stemming the flow of wickets until the second run-out of the innings accounted for him. The ball was edged fine of slip and Read called for a sharp run only for his partner to hesitate and be beaten by a direct hit at the bowler's end. Dean Cosker and Read batted through to lunch before England were bowled out for 350.

Second day of five; Eng A won toss

England A – First Innings

D L Maddy
c Dippenaar b Townsend 135
M P Vaughan c Maslkazana b Smith 4
M B Loye lbw b Kemp 17
M G N Windows run out 33
A Flintoff c Maslkazana b Smith 70
V S Solanki c Brooker b Townsend 0
G P Swann c Kemp b Townsend 21
C M W Read not out 33
S D Thomas run out 4
D A Cosker b Abrahams 18
S J Harmison b Abrahams 0
Extras (lb14, nb1) 15
Total (all out, 127.5 overs) 350

Fall: 1-5, 2-45, 3-117, 4-259, 5-260, 6-284, 7-293, 8-309, 9-350.

Bowling: Smith 29-10-53-2; Townsend 32-6-103-3; Kemp 26-6-66-1; Abrahams 20.5-4-55-2; Crookes 20-5-59-0

Umpires: D F Becker and R Brooks.

First victory for Schifferer

SKIING

BY CLAUDE DAVIS

ANDREAS SCHIFFERER, of Austria, won his first race of the year after an injury-plagued season and handed his World Cup downhill crown over to Norway's Lasse Kjus yesterday.

Schifferer, the outgoing champion who injured his shoulder at the Nagano Olympics and broke a leg in August, skied Norway's Kvitfjell course in the first of three races in one minute 46.36sec. The 24-year-old finished 0.10sec ahead of his compatriot Stephan Eberharter and 0.32sec ahead of Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, who extended his lead in the race for the overall World Cup title with six races left.

"This season I tried to come back from injury too quickly and had not come into form before now," said Schifferer, after the fifth World Cup downhill victory of his career. This season his best previous placing in the discipline was sixth. He was third in a giant slalom in December.

Kjus, who won five medals at the World Championships in Vail last month and who missed races last weekend due to bronchitis, wrapped up the World Cup downhill title with a fourth place behind Aamodt. Kjus is the first Norwegian ever to win the downhill title. He has 580 points in the standings, just enough to prevent his main challenger, Austria's Werner Franz, from catching him with two races left.

The defending World Cup champion Hermann Maier, of Austria, skied a ragged course down the steep Kvitfjell piste and ended in 16th place, more than two seconds adrift of Schifferer. Maier's disappointing placing on the steep course meant that he lost his second place in the overall standing to Kjus, the 1996 champion. Aamodt now has a total of 1,230 points with Kjus on 1,139 with six races left.

"I was surprised to beat both Maier and Kjus today," Aamodt said. "I especially didn't think I'd be ahead of Kjus." Aamodt said he just felt hungrier to win the overall title than Kjus, after Kjus's historic five medals at the World Championships against only two for Aamodt.

The women's world champion Renate Goetschl, of Austria, won yesterday's women's downhill race at St Moritz, in Switzerland, to clinch the season's World Cup title in the discipline.

Goetschl mastered the relatively unchallenging Corviglia course in one minute 48.65sec, edging her nearest rival, compatriot Michaela Dorfmeister, by a solid 0.30sec.

It marked Goetschl's third straight downhill victory, the Austrian claiming the gold medal at the world championships in Vail three weeks ago and winning at Are, in Sweden, last week. Italy's Isolde Kostner finished third. Germany's Hilde Gerg, who was also vying for the coveted title coming into the race, tied for sixth with the World Cup overall leader Alexandra Meissnitzer, of Austria.

Chapman chips in record round

GOLF

BY NORMAN DABELL
in Penina, Portugal

THE AMERICAN Bob May shrugged off a heavy cold to make an early move on Irishman Des Smyth's lead in the Portuguese Open.

A second-round 69, three-under-par, gave the 30-year-old former US Walker Cup player yet another chance of a maiden European Tour victory as he moved to a five-under-par 139, within a stroke of Smyth, who was an afternoon starter.

May has made four top-10 places in this year's six starts and his best finish was joint second in the Malaysian Open three tournaments ago.

He made his latest bid after again coming back from a poor start when he bogeyed the first hole, his putter helping him up the leaderboard as he holed three putts around the 25-foot mark. "It's been a good start to the season," said May. "I'm hoping to keep it going, obviously looking to go one better than my Kuala Lumpur finish.

"I've been battling a cold ever since I came here and I've twice had to fight bad starts. In the first round I started bogey, double-bogey and thought it might not be my week."

Spain's Pedro Linhart made an upward move, too, to lie second in the clubhouse on 140 after a 69, but Frenchman Jean Van de Velde lost his overnight tied second spot through a 73 for 141.

Britain's Roger Chapman produced the best score recorded at the Penina course but his seven-under-par 65 will not count for the record because preferred lies are in operation.

The 39-year-old Englishman put his round down to no longer worrying about golf because of health problems suffered by his youngest son Thomas.

"My eight-year-old son has been diagnosed as suffering with hip joint problems and told he's got to give up sport for five years when he's football-mad," said Chapman. "That brings it home to you that there are more important things in life than golf and I guess I played better by not worrying about the game any more."

His 18-year-old compatriot, Justin Rose, is worried about his game, however – especially his poor concentration.

He pinpointed his lapses in concentration as the chief reason for almost certainly missing his 15th consecutive cut since turning professional in a blaze of publicity last July after finishing fourth in the British Open. Rose slumped to a 77 and 148.

An early double-bogey rocked Rose and he virtually lost his chance of qualification with bogeys at the last two holes.

Home talent exodus endangers England

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

THE BUDWEISER LEAGUE restarts tonight after the break for the European Championships, but the England coach, Laszlo Nemeth, issued a warning to the best domestic talent aspiring to international basketball.

"As long as the League remains isolated from Europe, they will have to find jobs abroad if they want to play for England." The League allows five Americans per team, and even though some qualify for British passports, none are eligible for the national team. The rest of Europe permits only two Americans.

Last weekend England lost 79-76 in Tel Aviv against Israel, with a team comprising nine players from Continental clubs and only Manchester Giants veteran Ronnie Baker representing the Budweiser League.

Israel are one of the 16 teams in this summer's finals in France. Nemeth said: "Twelve or 13 of those squads have built their backbone on players from their own league. We had one – Baker. I never see my players to prepare for games."

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Maebashi, Japan): Men: 200m Heat 2: 1 O Thompson (Bar) 20.84; 2 P van Balkom (Neth) 20.94; 3 J Regis (GB) 21.23. **60m hurdles: Heat 1:** 1 D Ross (US) 7.51. 2 I Kovac (Slovak) 7.59; 3 M Fenner (Ger) 7.59, 4 K Mehlich (Pol) 7.65; 5 R Baillie (GB) 7.69. **Heat 2:** 1 C Jackson (GB) 7.42. **Final:** 1 C Jackson (GB) 7.38sec; 2 R Torian (US) 7.40. 3 F Balzer (Ger) 7.44. **Triple jump final:** 1 C M Friedek (Ger) 17.18m; 2 R Dimitrov (Bul) 17.05; 3 L Carter (US) 16.98. **Shot put final:** 1 A Bagach (Ukr) 21.41m; 2 J Godina (US) 21.06; 3 Y Belonog (Ukr) 20.89. **Women: Pentathlon 60m hurdles:** 1 L Nathan (US) 8.26sec, 2 M Steigauf (Ger) 8.30; 3 U Wlodarczyk (Pol) 8.32. **High jump:** 1 Nathan 1.86m; 2 Jamieson 1.83, 3 Wlodarczyk 1.80. **Shot put:** 1 Nathan 15.10. 2 Nazarovience 14.81; 3 Wlodarczyk 14.39. **800m:** 1 Belova 2:09.29; 2 Nathan 2:18.98; 3 Steigauf 2:19.62. **Long jump:** 1 Belova 6.45m; 2 Teppe 6.27; 3 Nathan 6.24. **Final standings:** 1 L Nathan (US) 4,753pts; 2 I Belova (Russia) 4,691; 3 U Wlodarczyk (Poland) 4,596. 4 R Nazarovience (Lithuania) 4,505; 5 J Jamieson (Australia) 4,490. **60m hurdles: Heat 1:** 1 M Morrison (US) 7.95sec; 2 G Alozie (Nigeria) 7.98; 3 G Russell (Jam) 8.06; 4 M José Mardomingo (Sp) 8.17; 5 D Allahgreen (GB) 8.25. **Heat 2:** 1 B Bukovec (Sloven) 8.04; 2 I Korotya (Rus) 8.04; 3 D Rose (Jam). 6 K Maddox (GB) 8.17. **Heat 3:** 1 O Shishigina (Kaz) 7.89; 2 K Anderson (Can) 7.90; 3 L Ferga (Fr) 8.00. **Pole vault final:** 1 N Ryshich (Ger) 4.50m; 2 V Flosadottir (Ice) 4.45; =3 N Rieger-Humbert (Ger) and Z Szabo (Hun) 4.35. **400m: Heat 4:** 1 O Kotlyarova (Rus) 52.06; 2 A Guevara (Mex) 52.43; 3 S Dudgeon (GB) 52.84. **High jump final:** 1 K Kalcheva (Bul) 1.99; 2 Z Kovacikova-Hlavonov (Cz Rep) 1.96; 3 T Waller (US) 1.96. **60m hurdles final:** 1 O Shishigina (Kaz) 7.86; 2 G Alozie (Nigeria) 7.87; 3 K Anderson (Can) 7.90. **Women's 200m semi-finals** (first two in each heat qualify for final): **Heat 1:** 6 S Anderson (GB) 24.58.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Second day of four): Sydney: New South Wales 459-5 dec (M Bevan 202no, P Emery 84no). South Australia 192-3 (J Siddons 97no, J Vaughan 63no). **Perth:** Western Australia 486-6dec (M Hussey 187, R Baker 111no, T Moody 109) and 1-0. Tasmania 228 (M Di Venuto 60; T Moody 4-33). **Brisbane:** Victoria 188 (B Hodge 71). Queensland 367-7 (G Foley 107no, M Hayden 103).

FOOTBALL

Carl Asaba, the Gillingham striker, has had his appeal against a dismissal upheld by a Football Association disciplinary committee. Asaba was sent off for allegedly head-butting David Greene of Colchester on 21 February but the red card has now been expunged from Asaba's record.

Barry Horne, the Huddersfield captain, has been ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing an operation on knee ligament damage sustained in November.

The future of Jim Farry was in doubt last night following a meeting of the Scottish Football Association's executive committee. The 10-man committee held a five-hour meeting, but were not prepared to comment as they left Park Gardens. Their recommendations will now go before the full 49-man SFA council, who assemble at Hampden Park on Monday. Farry was suspended on full pay as chief executive of the SFA following a dispute with Celtic over the delayed registration of Jorge Cadete.

The French football federation have reduced the two-match ban on Marseilles' Velodrome stadium to one match. The ban was imposed after fans at the Velodrome threw fire-crackers onto the pitch and invaded it during Marseilles' 2-0 win over Auxerre in the first round of the French Cup on 23 January. The French league leaders will serve the ban on 20 March when they were scheduled to have a home game against Lorient. It is the second time this season the Velodrome has been banned for one match for crowd trouble.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cup-Winners' Cup Quarter-finals first leg: Chelsea 3 Valerenga 0; Lokomotiv Moscow 3 Maccabi Haifa 0; Panionios 0 Lazio 4; Varteks Varzdin 0 Real Mallorca 0. **Peace Cup international tournament (Guatemala City):** Bolivia 0 Jamaica 0; Guatemala 2 (Alegria 22, Valencia 78) Paraguay 3 (Gonzalez 24, 90, Centurion pen 88). **Pontins League Second Division:** Bradford 0 Huddersfield 0. **Avon Insurance Combination First Division:** Norwich 1 Crystal Palace 2. **UniBond League Challenge Cup Third-round replay: Postponed:** Colwyn Bay v Droylsden. **Screwfix Direct League Les Phillips Cup Quarter-final: Postponed:** Tiverton Town v Melksham Town.

GOLF

England's David Watson added a one-under-par 71 to his opening 69 to lie six shots behind the two-stroke leader Peter O'Malley of Australia at the halfway stage of the Australasian PGA Tour Championship in Canberra yesterday. Another Englishman, Mark Sheppard, missed the cut after rounds of 76 and 78.

AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Royal Canberra, Aus) Leading second-round scores (Aus unless stated): 134 P O'Malley 65 69. 136 N Smith 70 66; S Wearne 70 66. 137 S Laycock 68 69. 138 M Cain 68 70; S Conran 69 69; D McKenzie 70 68. 139 J Moseley 70 69; P Senior 70 69. 140 S Leaney 69 71; C Spence 68 72; D Watson (Eng) 69 71; R Pampling 71 69; S Scahill (NZ) 70 70. 141 I Leggatt (Can) 72 69; J Benepe (US) 70 71; C Percy 69 72; T Carolan 71 70. GB: 154 M Sheppard 76 78.

ALGARVE PORTUGUESE OPEN (Penina) Leading second-round scores (GB or Irl unless stated): 139 B May (US) 70 69. 141 G Evans 72 69; M Tunnicliff 72 69; J Van De Velde (Fr) 68 73; R Karlsson (Swe) 69 72. 142 J M Singh (India) 73 69; P Mitchell 71 71; T Johnstone (Zim) 71 71. 143 R Chapman 78 65. 144 C Hainline (US) 71 73. 145 M Anglert (Swe) 74 71; P Eales 73 72; *N Campino (Por) 73 72; D Lee 75 70; P Baker 73 72. 146 R Gonzalez (Arg) 72 74; D Howell 74 72. 147 RJ Derksen (Neth) 73 74; B Lane 72 75; T Munoz (Sp) 73 74; J Spence 74 73. 148 M Jonzon (Swe) 71 77. 149 M Pinero (Sp) 75 74; I Giner (Sp) 76 73; P Quirici (Swit) 75 74. 150 A Binaghi (It) 81 69; M A Martin (Sp) 79 71. 151 P Nyman (Swe) 79 72. 152 R Muntz (Neth) 76 76. 153 R Russell 77 76. 154 M James 79 75. 156 I Garrido (Sp) 75 81. 158 S Struver (Ger) 80 78.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Tampa Bay 2 Colorado 1; New York Rangers 4 Washington 2; Dallas 3 New York Islanders 2 (ot); Ottawa 5 Philadelphia 0; Toronto 4 St Louis 0; Nashville 4 Los Angeles 3; Edmonton 5 Buffalo 3; Carolina 2 Boston 1; Colorado 7 Florida 5; Pittsburgh 4 Montreal 4 (ot); New Jersey 5 Toronto 2; San Jose 4 Vancouver 3; Anaheim 2 Los Angeles 1.

RALLYING

Petter Solberg, the Norwegian driver who finished fourth in the Safari Rally on his world championship debut, has earned another start with the Ford Focus team in the fourth round of the championships in Portugal later this month. He was called up to replace the injured Thomas Radstrom, who broke his left leg in a hotel fall before the Kenyan event. Radstrom is still unfit.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Brisbane Broncos, the reigning champions, were beaten 28-20 by Canberra on the opening day of Australia's National Rugby League season in front of a 20,000 at Canberra's Bruce Stadium. In yesterday's other match, Melbourne Storm crushed Penrith 32-10 at Melbourne's Olympic Park.

RUGBY UNION

Richmond, the Allied Dunbar Premiership One club, have gone into administration in an attempt to secure their long-term future. The club have recorded losses of around £1.5m this year despite their owner Ashley Levett ploughing in almost £6m since taking over three years ago. Levett is to reduce his stake in the club to 25 per cent. Tony Dorman, the Richmond president, said: "We have concluded that an administration order provides the best opportunity to maximise the returns to creditors and to secure the long-term future of the club."

SUPER 12 (Eden Park, Auckland): Auckland Blues 16 Canterbury Crusaders 22.

SKIING

MEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP DOWNHILL (Kvitfjell, Nor): Leading provisional results: 1 A Schifferer (Aut) 1min 46.36sec; 2 S Eberharter (Aut) 1:46.46; 3 K Andre Aamodt (Nor) 1:46.68; 4 L Kjus (Nor) 1:46.84; 5 H Knauss (Aut) 1:46.87; 6 H Trinkl (Aut) 1:47.19; 7 D Cuche (Swit) 1:47.24; 8 P Jaerbyn (Swe) 1:47.37. 9 W Franz (Aut) 1:47.42; 10 B Kernen (Swit) 1:47.60.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP DOWNHILL (St Moritz, Swit): 1 R Goetschl (Aut) 1:48.65; 2 M Dorfmeister (Aut) 1:48.95; 3 I Kostner, Italy, 1:49.77, 4 F Masnada, France, 1:50.00; 5 M Salchinger (Aut) 1:50.02; =6 H Gerg, Germany, 1:50.34, A Meissnitzer (Aut) 1:50.34, 8 S Heregger (Aut) 1:50.36, 9 C Montillet, France, 1:50.47; 10 B Obermoser (Aut) 1.50.51.

SNOOKER

THAILAND MASTERS (Bangkok) Quarter-finals: D Morgan (Wal) by S Davis (Eng) 5-3; A McManus (Sco) bt J Higgins (Sco) 5-4.

SNOWBOARDING

WORLD CUP (Kreischberg, Aut) Men's Cross: 1 Z Steggall (Aus); 2 H Jansson (Swe); 3 S Duclos (Fr); 4 M Sterner (Swe); 5 A Pogue (US); 6 P Troger (Aut). **Women:** 1 S Bergdahl (Swe); 2 M Riegler (Aut); 3 K Winkler (Aut); 4 L McKenna (GB); 5 M Ricker (Can); 6 A Tible (Fr).

SQUASH

Paul Johnson and Cassie Jackson, winners of the British National title last month, maintained their No 1 positions in the new English rankings issued yesterday.

Cathedral Belle can call the tune

By Greg Wood

WHEN IT comes to pulling power, staging a race meeting just two Saturdays before the Festival at Cheltenham must be a little like organising a bring-and-buy sale next door to Selfridges.

Doncaster, Newbury and the rest of today's tracks deserve credit simply for having a go, and at the Yorkshire course at least, previous form suggests that a serious Cheltenham candidate will be appearing on the card.

It will require a little patience to find out, though, since the Festival in question is more likely to be the one next year than the meeting which starts in 10 days time. Exactly a year ago today, Lady Rebecca won the novice hurdle at Doncaster, and on Gold Cup day she will start favourite for the Stayers' Hurdle.

Of more immediate interest, however, is the fact that her trainer, Venetia Williams, is represented today by another promising young hurdler in Master Pilgrim.

This fact alone may be enough to send Master Pilgrim to the head of the market this afternoon, and since she is the only one of the country's top four trainers who still shows a level-stakes profit for backers, not to mention a strike-rate of one in three, it is difficult to argue.

Yet difficult is not the same as impossible, and while Master Pilgrim has won his last two races, both were very weak contests, and his odds today will inevitably be far shorter than is merited by his bare form.

Native Recruit, on the other hand, took on Barton, the best staying novice in Britain, two runs ago, although he ran poorly last time.

Both horses, though, are asked to concede the 5lb mares' allowance to **CATHEDRAL BELLE** (nap 3.05), whose latest win, her third in four outings, came in a competitive, 19-runner handicap at Huntingdon. The task should prove beyond them.

The most attractive betting race of the day is the Mitsubishi Shogun Trophy, which brings several improving chasers into opposition.

There are some familiar old hands in there too, like Hurricane Lamp and Tom Brodie, but it is the three youngest runners, two six-year-olds and a seven-year-old, who are probably the ones the watch.

The trio in question are Dr Bones, Smolensk and Noble Lord, but narrowing the race down any further is problematic, not least because all are returning from absences of at least two months, and their fitness therefore must be taken on trust.

The final vote should probably go to **Smolensk** (3.35), if only because his latest success came over today's course, but this is not a race to risk the Festival betting bank on.

There are just five runners for the Grimthorpe Handicap Chase, and the two which most backers will probably focus on are the one ridden by Adrian Maguire, Baronet, and the one which he was supposed to be riding until two days ago, Major Bell.

Maguire's booking for Major Bell, whom he steered to success in the Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster last month, did not go down well with David Nicholson, his former and still frequent employer, and rather than risk the wrath of the Duke, Maguire has switched back to Baronet.

This probably has more to do with keeping Nicholson happy, with lots of spare rides at Cheltenham beckoning, than the pair's actual chances this afternoon, and **Major Bell** (next best 4.10) should follow up today.

In the handicap hurdle, meanwhile, **Goodtime George** (4.40) may just have the edge over Merry Masquerade.

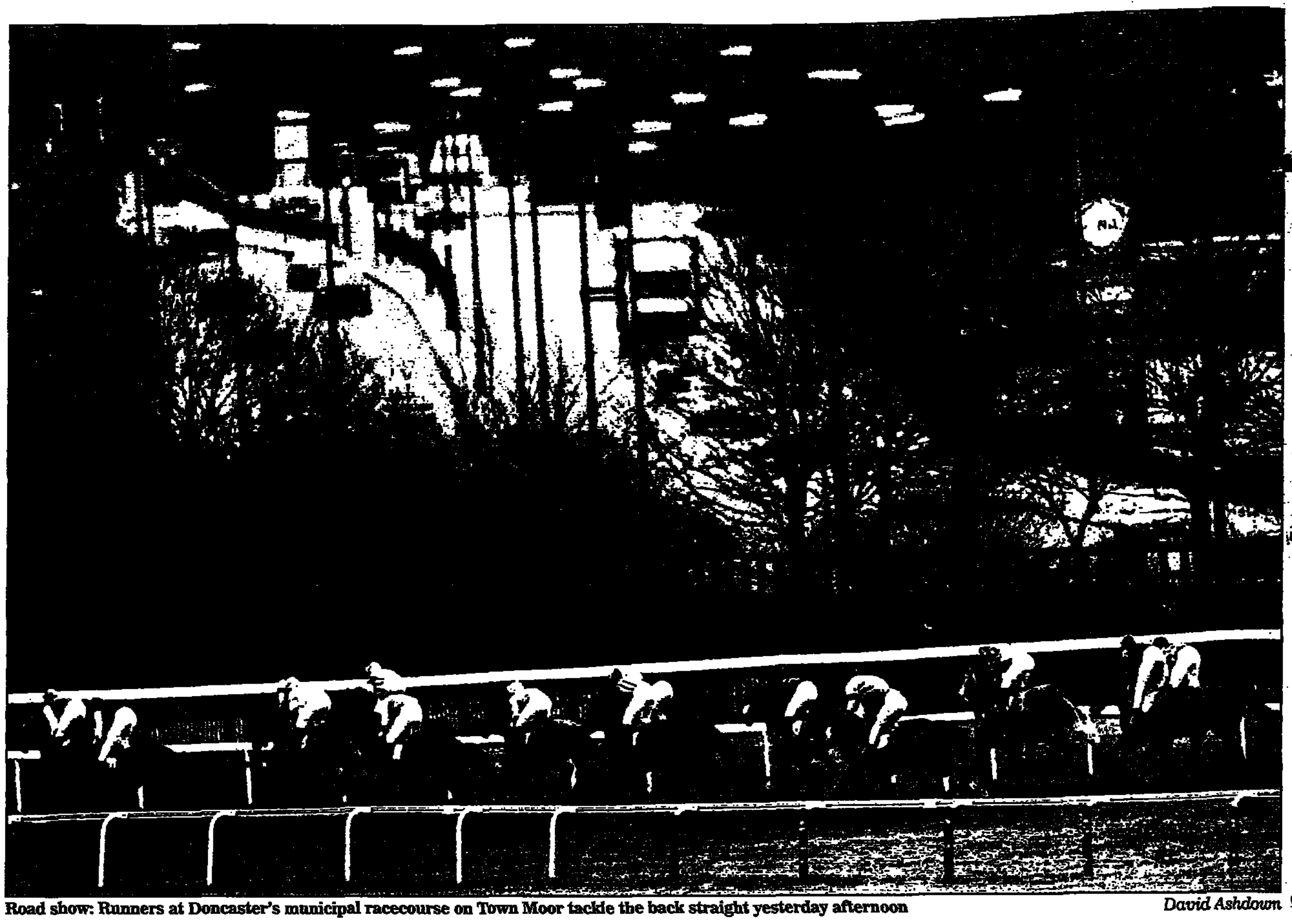
RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Double Strike
(5.00 Huntingdon)
NB: Rash Remark
(2.15 Newbury)

Perhaps the most serious pointer to this year's Cheltenham Festival this afternoon will be at Warwick, where the much-vaunted Castle Mane is among the runners for the hunter chase over three miles and a quarter.

The unbeaten point-to-pointer, although only making his debut over regulation fences this afternoon, is already the 4-1 joint-favourite for the Foxhunters' Chase at Cheltenham a week on Thursday after impressing on the clock when recording easy wide-margin victories between the flags at Tweseldown and Brocklesby Park.

Castle Mane is trained by Caroline Bailey, who had another promising hunter chaser in her care just 12 months ago. He was a grey called Teeton Mill, and the word is, that at this stage of his career at least, his trainer thinks just as much of Castle Mane.

While making allowance for the fact that Bailey's horses are always looking for potential buyers, this is an impressive recommendation, and the race is one to stop for if you happen to be passing a betting shop at 4.45 this afternoon.



Road show: Runners at Doncaster's municipal racecourse on Town Moor tackle the back straight yesterday afternoon *David Ashdown*

Earth Summit doubtful for Gold Cup

EARTH SUMMIT may miss the Gold Cup. The Grand National winner, who also scored over Aintree's fences in the Becher Chase in November, has not run since disappointing in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock in January.

Earth Summit is being prepared for another tilt at the National and Twiston-Davies said: "The owners are keen for Earth Summit to be left in the Gold Cup to the last minute in case it comes up really deep. But I think it's unlikely he would run in that race and I think he'd go straight to Aintree."

The Irish trainer Dermot Weld said yesterday the Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle was the likely Cheltenham target of his Ladbroke Hurdle winner Archive Footage.

By Ian Davies

Space Trucker warms up for Cheltenham's Grand Annual Chase with a run over hurdles at Leopardstown tomorrow. The 1997 Champion Hurdle third returns from a four-and-a-half-month break in the Brannockstown Handicap Hurdle.

Space Trucker has been out of action because of a foot injury but Jessica Harrington, his trainer, said: "We normally don't run him during the winter for he prefers good to fast ground. He has been flying since Christmas and if the ground dries up at Cheltenham, he would have a marvellous chance." Mrs Harrington also runs Slaney Native in the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle and Ferbet Junior in the Coral Cup.

Edelweis Du Moulin's reappearance was put on hold again yesterday when the Queen Mother Champion Chase hope was pulled out of his planned comeback in the Geoffrey Gilbey Handicap Chase at Newbury because his trainer, Venetia Williams, was not happy with his blood test. Williams reported: "Unfortunately, his blood test wasn't as good as it should be. I can't say at the moment how serious it is but I hope he will be able to go to Cheltenham."

Edelweis Du Moulin, yet to race for Williams, was fourth in the Arkle Chase at last year's Cheltenham Festival when trained by Gordon Richards but has not run since finishing second at Ayr last April.

Richard Johnson, who completed a century of winners for the season at Doncaster yesterday, has plenty to look forward to in the remainder of the season and is hoping for a good Cheltenham Festival. He said: "Step On Eyre in the National Hunt Handicap Chase and Escartefigue in the Gold Cup have a great chance if the ground is soft, but I've got a great book of rides with horses like Flying Gunner, Behrajan and Samuel Wilderspin."

Crazy Horse was a most impressive winner of the Hennessy Cognac Special Series Final Novice Hurdle at Kelso. Travelling strongly throughout the two-and-a-quarter-mile trip, he never looked in danger once he took it up on the bridle at the last. At the line he was hard held to beat Tessajoe by eight lengths. The 6-5 favourite Major Sponsor was a further 16 lengths back in third with connections offering the explanation that the gelding did not like the sticky ground.

Crazy Horse's trainer Len Lungo has the six-year-old entered at Cheltenham but he may wait for a later engagement at Aintree. He said: "The huge field at Cheltenham might not suit him, so we have the option of going to Aintree in April."

Shanagarry, entered in the the Grand National won the Norman Dalgetty Handicap Chase. The 10-year-old was kidded along on the run-in to beat Solsgirth by 11 lengths. Paul Murphy, son and assistant to the winning trainer Ferdy Murphy, said: "He is a National type as he jumps fantastic and although he's out of the handicap I think he will run in the big race. We were worried about the ground today when we saw the rain yesterday but luckily we weren't put off. He's been over the big fences before at Aintree and he was unlucky to be brought down in this season's Becher Chase."

■ The jockey Kieren Fallon launches his British campaign at Wolverhampton tonight. Fallon, champion Flat jockey in each of the last two seasons, rides in five of the six races. Fallon has partnered more than 200 British winners in each of the past two years and will make history if he does so again this year. Sir Gordon Richards and Fred Archer are the only jockeys to have achieved the feat more than twice.

WARWICK

HYPERION

2.05 Tie Break 2.35 Doc Ryan's 3.10 Stormy Session 3.45 Cholsty 4.15 Arkley Royal 4.45 Castle Mane 5.15 Warmley's Gem

GOING: Soft.
■ Left-hand course. Run-in of 240 yards.
■ Course is W of city on B4095. Buses from stations at Warwick (1m) and Leamington Spa (2m). **ADMISSION:** Club £13; Tattersalls £9 (card-carrying students half-price, accompanied under-16s free); Course £5. **CAR PARK:** £5 in members; centre of course free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** M Pipe 26-112 (23.2%), D Nicholson 24-112 (21.4%), Mrs J Pitman 15-74 (20.3%), N T-Davies 11-84 (13.1%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A P McCoy 24-62 (38.7%), R Johnson 20-81 (24.7%), N Williamson 18-81 (22.2%), W Marston 15-91 (16.5%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 156-416 (38%)
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.05 EMSCOTT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (F) £2,500 2m

1 3P-PP- CHEF COMEDIEN (336) (D) M Wilkinson 9 11 10 .. R Widger
2 353343 TANSEEQ (22) (D) M Meagher 8 11 9 ... C McCormack V
3 -30614 COBLE (22) (D) D McCain 5 11 8 ... A C Coyle
4 00051 KALISKO (FR) (785) (D) Miss L Davis 9 11 7 ... S Melrose (3)
5 C350P6 TIE BREAK (9) J Joseph 4 11 2 ... R McGrath
6 62F0-2 LUCY TUFTY (16) G Prodromou 8 11 2 ... Michael Brennan
7 3P-001 CHARLIE CHANG (10) B Llewellyn 6 10 11 ... O McPhail B
8 0003 BROOKSIE (16) R Carson 4 10 9 ... J Power (3)
9 00-035 HYDEMILLA (81) Mrs T Pilkington 9 10 7 ... L Suthern (3)
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Tanseeq, 4-1 Lucy Tufty, Charlie Chang, 5-1 Coble, 7-1 Tie Break, Brooksie, 8-1 Hydemilla, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT
This has be at the mercy of **CHARLIE CHANG** if blinkers work as well as they did when he cruised to victory in a Folkestone selling handicap hurdle last month. There is not much to choose between the consistent Tanseeq and Coble on last month's Bangor form and they are both possibilities.

2.35 WATERGALL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 4-0610 SAINT JOE (36) (D) O Sherwood 6 11 8 ... J Tizzard
2 10140 ARLEQUIN DE SOU (39) (D) (BF) P Hobbs 5 11 2 R Widger (5) B
3 00 BIT OF KUWAIT (NZ) (11) G McCourt 6 11 2 ... D Fortt (5)
4 0 DISCO KING (11) O O'Neill 5 11 2 ... V Slattery
5 3P DOC RYAN'S (8) M Ryan 5 11 2 ... J Ryan
6 R55-0 KILGAL (16) A Hollingsworth 6 11 2 ... G F Ryan (3)
7 12-440 MORE TUNEY (15) N Henderson 6 11 2 ... J R Kavanagh
8 MOUNTAINEER (F506) Miss K George 5 11 2 ... R Massey
9 152P10 SLIDE ON (44) P Evans 9 11 2 ... Mr G Lake (7)
10 50 BURNT HONEY (26) R Dickin 5 10 11 ... J Culloty
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Arlequin De Sou, 5-2 Saint Joe, 3-1 More Tuney, 4-1 Doc Ryan's, 16-1 Mountaineer, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT
DOC RYAN'S, who was thought worthy of a Cheltenham novice entry, has obvious claims if forgiven his flop on fast ground at Kempton eight days ago. Saint Joe stays well but looks exposed and bigger threats are the well-regarded Arlequin De Sou, who is better than he showed on his British bow, and More Tuney, who is nailed on to improve dramatically on his run behind smart stable-companion Bacchanal over a trip that was too sharp for him at Sandown last month.

3.10 EXTERIOR PROFILES NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (C) £10,000 2m 4f 110yds

1 2-P11 NIKI DEE (26) (D) P Beaumont 9 12 0 ... R Supple
2 3354-P REAGANESQUE (USA) (9) (CD) P Murphy 7 11 10 ... R Farrant
3 232432 MACHALINI (11) T George 6 10 9 ... R Widger (5)
4 2F-122 ORIENTAL BOY (22) (BF) R Lee 7 10 5 ... W Marston
5 5F4046 MACY (26) (C) R Dickin 6 10 3 ... J Culloty
6 5-420- STORMY SESSION (448) P Nicholls 9 10 2 ... J Tizzard
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Oriental Boy, 11-4 Niki Dee, 7-2 Machalini, Stormy Session, 6-1 Reaganesque, 33-1 Macy

FORM VERDICT
Quite a competitive little novices' handicap and Niki Dee will no doubt be popular after his recent successes. However, all his winning has been done on much faster ground than this and he may struggle to give a lot of weight away to **ORIENTAL BOY** under today's conditions. The selection has run good races against a couple of well-treated rivals on his last two starts and acts well in soft ground.

3.45 CRUDWELL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m 5f

1 11F-P6 A N C EXPRESS (16) (CD) J King 11 11 10 ... J Tizzard
2 334-12 FULL OF OATS (14) (CD) P Hobbs 13 11 8 ... R Widger (5)
3 -22464 RECTORY GARDEN (12) H Daly 10 11 2 ... C Maude
4 2143-1 MYSTIC ISLE (36) N Gaselee 9 11 2 ... J R Kavanagh B
5 P4-FR0 CHOISTY (16) (CD) H Haynes 9 10 8 ... R McGrath
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 11-8 Full Of Oats, 2-1 Mystic Isle, 4-1 Rectory Garden, 6-1 A N C Express, 20-1 Choisty

FORM VERDICT
The new chase handicapper is raising and dropping horses more freely than punters are used to, so those with the best recent form, such as Full Of Oats, are now vulnerable if one of those dropping in the weights happens to come good again on the day, and A N C Express and Choisty could be coming to hand. Preference, however, is for **MYSTIC ISLE**. Although upped 8lb for his Folkestone win, this step up in distance could help him keep a step ahead of the assessor.

4.15 BLACKDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 /4-F64 SUN SURFER (FR) (28) (D) H Daly 11 11 10 ... S Wynne
2 /221-4 ARKLEY ROYAL (82) (CD) J Old 8 11 10 ... C Maude
3 0021-1 GREEN CRUSADER (289) (D) Mrs V Ward 8 11 3 ... J Culloty
4 -33D46 DICTUM (3) (D) Miss H Knight 8 10 7 ... R Widger (5)
– 4 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Green Crusader, 5-2 Arkley Royal, 7-2 Sun Surfer, Dictum

FORM VERDICT
Dictum flopped on Wednesday, while Sun Surfer is not getting any younger and Green Crusader has not been seen out since winning in June. As such, the best option is to forgive **ARKLEY ROYAL** his flop over fences and recall how impressive he was in opening his account over hurdles over this course and distance last term when he looked a horse with a future.

4.45 TOWN OF WARWICK FOXHUNTER TROPHY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m 2f

1 P20-4F AIRTRAK (8) Mrs R Pilkington 10 12 3 ... Mr C Vigors
2 /4P25- ALBERT BLAKE (283) (D) (BF) Mrs T Kinsey 12 12 3 ... Mr G Hanmer (5)
3 111-11 CASTLE MANE (14) Mrs C Bailey 7 12 3 ... Mr B Pollock
4 /3P-24 DESPERATE (14) (D) Mrs J Saunders 11 12 3 ... Mr T Lane (7)
5 05-P12 JUPITER MOON (P14) (D) J Cornwall 10 12 3 ... Mr J R Cornwall (7)
6 /52U-2 RUSTY BRIDGE (19) (C) (D) Mrs S Johnson 12 12 3 ... Mr R Burton (5)
7 1242-3 SHALLOW RIVER (P21) Miss S Phizacklea 8 12 3 ... Miss S Phizacklea (7)
8 P3F1-F SPRINGFARM RATH (17) G Brown 8 12 3 Mr B Kendellen (7)
9 P/46-P JUDY LINE (P21) R Packer 10 11 12 ... Mr J Cook (7)
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 2-9 Castle Mane, 6-1 Rusty Bridge, 12-1 Shallow River, 25-1 Albert Blake, Desperate, Jupiter Moon, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT
The very exciting **CASTLE MANE** should win this barring accidents. Rusty Bridge makes most appeal for the forecast, with Airtrak and Desperate others to consider.

5.15 EDSTONE INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added fillies & mares 2m

1 0 DAYS DESTINY (12) J Mullins 5 11 2 ... A Bates (3)
2 ESTER'S GIRL K Bell 6 11 2 ... M Ahern
3 KATIES TIGHT JEANS R Peacock 5 11 2 ... L Corcoran (7)
4 LADY PADIVOR N Twiston-Davies 5 11 2 ... L Suthern (7)
5 LANDSBURY LASS J Neville 5 11 2 ... T Siddall (5)
6 MISS MONTROSE M Kettle 5 11 2 ... J Tizzard
7 ROYAL TINA M Kettle 5 11 2 ... J R Kavanagh
8 2 STEEL ROSE (15) N Twiston-Davies 5 11 2 ... C Maude
9 WARMLEY'S GEM J Old 6 11 2 ... J Culloty
10 0 LADY OF THE LAMP (42) P Jones 4 10 6 ... D Leahy
11 230 PERTEMPS CINDRELLA (30) A D Smith 4 10 8 X Aizpuru (3)
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 4-11 Steel Rose, 13-2 Warmley's Gem, 8-1 Lady Padivor, 16-1 Ester's Girl, 20-1 Katies Tight Jeans, Landsbury Lass, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT
Steel Rose is the pick on form but she is no world-beater on what she achieved on her debut and is worth opposing with **WARMLEY'S GEM**, whose half-brother Pete The Parson showed fair bumper form before making his mark over fences. Days Destiny is open to improvement along with Lady of the Lamp but Pertemps Cindrella ran poorly last time.

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION

7.00 Asilana 7.30 Parte Prima 8.00 Powder River 8.30 Love Blues 9.00 Dande Times 9.30 Sounds Lucky

GOING: Standard. **STALLS:** 7f – outside; rest – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low to middle best for 7f.
■ Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.
■ Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1m. **ADMISSION:** Club £15; Tattersalls £8 (£2 off for OAP members of Diamond Club); Restaurant package prices £17.50 to £35.95 including course entrance and meal. **CAR PARK:** free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** R Hollinshead 70-582 (12%), N Littmoden 51-380 (13.4%), M Johnston 47-244 (19.3%) P Evans 41-410 (10%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** S Sanders 43-311 (13.8%), Dean McKeown 38-306 (12.4%), J Weaver 36-203 (17.7%), D Holland 31-133 (23.3%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 486-1504 (32.3%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Legend Falls (visored, 7.00), Tunnel Bridge (7.30), Bamboo Garden (visored, 7.30), Zorba (8.00), River Boy (8.30), Cameo (visored, 9.00), Tilburg (visored, 9.00).

7.00 BAVARIAN MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 7f

1 0323-3 IKRAM BOY (USA) (6) A Bailey 5 9 10 ... J Bosley (7) 12
2 000-35 APPROACHABLE (USA) (11) R Phillips 4 9 10 Martin Dwyer 6
3 0-0433 STRAVSEA (10) B Baugh 4 9 5 ... A Culhane 2
4 3-0520 SCINTILATING SOUND (26) S Bowring 4 9 2 ... C Teague (3) 9
5 000-02 BICTON PARK (50) K Comerford 5 9 1 ... M Fenton 1
6 0000-2 ZABRISKIE (8) G L Moore 5 9 1 ... J Quinn 11
7 36-252 LEGEND FALLS (18) J Noseda 3 9 0 ... G Carter 7 V
8 000-33 MARIANA (14) T Clement 4 8 12 ... T Sprake 8 V
9 3-0450 NOBLE PATRIOT (8) R Hollinshead 4 8 12 ... P M Quinn (7) 3
10 0-5332 DIAMOND BLUSH (14) N Littmoden 3 8 9 ... T G McLaughlin 5
11 005-63 TIME ON MY HANDS (12) C Thornton 3 8 6 Dean McKeown 10
12 5-46 ASILANA (22) T Easterby 3 8 6 ... L Charnock 4
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Legend Falls, 5-1 Zabriskie, 7-1 Ikram Boy, 8-1 Approachable, Mariana, 10-1 Stravsea, Bicton Park, Diamond Blush, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT
All dozen runners have finished in the frame on the AW this year so this is quite a competitive race of its type. However, today's drop in trip will suit **APPROACHABLE**, who is on a fair mark on what he achieved on his reappearance, and he is a potential improver under these conditions.

7.30 SCHNAPPS CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 1m 100yds

1 6-6135 BAMBOO GARDEN (15) (D) G Chung 9 1 ... N Callan (8) 7 V
2 365633 MISS TAKE (7) (CD) P Evans 9 1 ... K Fallon 8 V
3 06-144 PIPS BRAVE (15) (D) M Polglase 9 1 ... Dean McKeown 4
4 052-21 THE LAST WORD (12) (D) R Hollinshead 9 1 ... P M Quinn (7) 2
5 -4020 ULTRA CALM (28) (C) P Haslam 9 1 ... P Goode (5) 6
6 041- BLUE GLASS (140) (CD) N Littmoden 8 12 T G McLaughlin 1
7 0333 PARTE PRIMA (7) S Kettlewell 8 12 ... R FitzPatrick (5) 3
8 0540-0 TUNNEL BRIDGE (22) K Ryan 8 12 ... A McCarthy (3) 5 B
9 00-0 OZZIE (58) M Wang 8 9 ... P Fessey 9
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Miss Take, 4-1 Pip's Brave, 5-1 Bamboo Garden, The Last Word, 6-1 Parte Prima, 7-1 Blue Glass, 10-1 Ultra Calm, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT
Not much between eight of the nine on handicap ratings, but this return to Wolverhampton will suit **MISS TAKE** who pipped the fairly useful Daunted over C&D in December and who has much less on her plate than on her last visit here in January.

8.00 BETTING RING BOOKMAKERS H'CAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 1f 79yds

1 0000-1 SAGUARO (8) K Morgan 5 10 0 ... P Fitzsimons (7) 5
2 4-0031 POWDER RIVER (4) K Burke 5 9 12 (6ex) .. Dean McKeown 11
3 024-23 MURMOON (28) (BF) B Hanbury 4 9 9 ... K Fallon 7
4 321004 ARC (10) (C) F Jordan 5 9 6 ... A Culhane 13
5 232-41 NAKED OAT (28) (CD) B Smart 4 9 6 ... P Goode (5) 8
6 53/2- PRIMEVAL (331) K Comerford 5 9 5 ... M Fenton 1
7 -54343 KILLARNEY JAZZ (29) (BF) G Chung 4 9 2 ... M Tebbutt 12 B
8 044-00 SPARKLING HARRY (12) (CD) Miss L Siddall 5 8 13 ... L Charnock 4
9 00-001 THE WILD WIDOW (14) (CD) Miss S Wilton 5 8 12 ... J Quinn 3
10 -21221 AREISH (19) (CD) J Balding 6 8 8 ... J Edmunds 2
11 3525-5 ROMA (28) C Thornton 4 8 6 ... J Fanning 8
12 5042-2 TOP FLOOR (14) J Spearing 4 8 5 ... S Drowne 10
13 12621- ZORBA (J19) (D) J O'Shea 5 8 4 ... C Cogan (7) 6 B
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Powder River, 6-1 Murmoon, 7-1 Naked Oat, 8-1 Saguaro, Killarney Jazz, Areish, 10-1 Arc, Primeval, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT
A competitive handicap featuring five recent winners. **POWDER RIVER** always had matters under control in the closing stages at Lingfield on Tuesday and can follow up at the expense of Areish and Saguaro.

8.30 COLIN AND DOREEN SALTER RUBY WEDDING H'CAP (D) £5,250 3YO 1m 4f

1 21-122 DAUNTED (21) G L Moore 9 7 ... K Fallon 1 B
2 53-211 LOVE BLUES (35) (C) M Johnston 8 6 ... R FitzPatrick (5) 3
3 00-114 RAYWARE BOY (21) D Shaw 8 3 ... J Quinn 4 B
4 -05631 LOST SPIRIT (8) (D) P Hiatt 7 10 ... L Charnock 5
5 4600-6 RIVER BOY (15) P Shakespeare 7 10 ... P M Quinn (7) 2 B
– 5 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Lost Spirit 7st 4lb, River Boy 6st 9lb.

BETTING: 5-4 Love Blues, 11-4 Daunted, 7-2 Rayware Boy, 6-1 Lost Spirit, 25-1 River Boy

FORM VERDICT
This longer trip should hold no fears for **RAYWARE BOY** and Fibresand and blinkers have brought out the best in him before. There has to be a question mark over the stamina of Daunted, so the hat-trick seeking Love Blues may be his main rival.

9.00 VENICE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 5f

1 -50013 CHALUZ (5) (C) (BF) N Littmoden 5 9 3 ... J Quinn 1
2 -50404 ADIRPOUR (14) R Hollinshead 5 8 11 ... A Culhane 10
3 -55040 CAMEO (8) M Channon 4 8 11 ... P Cleary (7) 7 V
4 333003 DANDE TIMES (4) (D) K Ivory 4 8 11 ... Martin Dwyer 8 B
5 -08058 FEATHERSTONE LANE (31) (CD) Miss L Siddall 8 8 11 ... Dean McKeown 5
6 40-305 HYPERICO (29) Miss S Wilton 5 8 11 ... N Pollard (3) 6
7 403020 LITTLE IBNR (5) (CD) (BF) P Evans 8 8 11 ... K Fallon 11 V
8 5-0036 RENNYHOLME (22) (CD) K Ryan 8 8 11 .. D Gleeson (7) 12 B
9 05-000 DYCE (52) (CD) J Balding 5 8 6 ... J Edmunds 4 B
10 0-0620 OPENING RANGE (24) (CD) N Berry 8 8 6 ... N Carlisle 2
11 -00400 SELKIRK ROSE (24) (D) J Given 4 8 6 ... T G McLaughlin 9
12 50050- TILBURG (240) Mrs N Macauley 4 8 6 ... P McCabe 3 V
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Little Ibnr, 5-1 Chaluz, 11-2 Dande Times, 7-1 Featherstone Lane, 8-1 Cameo, 10-1 Adirpour, Hyperico, Tilburg, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT
The conditions of this event favour **FEATHERSTONE LANE** and, with plenty of front runners among the opposition, he should get the strong pace he needs to mount his late charge. Little Ibnr has not won for two years, but is reunited for the first time since with Kieren Fallon; he has some decent efforts to his name of late and, along with Dande Times and Chaluz, looks the chief opposition.

9.30 OOMPAH BAND HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3YO 6f

1 021- SEVEN SPRINGS (110) (CD) R Hollinshead 9 7 ... K Fallon 1
2 14-614 DONE AND DUSTED (23) (BF) R Brotherton 9 2 ... F Norton 13
3 00230- GRECIAN TALE (142) A Jarvis 9 1 ... J Newton 5
4 -33325 TRINA'S PET (14) J Balding 8 12 ... J Edmunds 12 B
5 62-403 CANTGETYOURBREATH (25) (D) Mrs N Macauley 8 12 ... Amanda Sanders 9 V
6 36-643 AVONDALE GIRL (17) C Dwyer 8 10 ... F Lynch 3
7 05-314 LIGHT BREEZE (14) (D) G L Moore 8 8 ... R Brisland (7) 10
8 02-215 KEEN HANDS (15) (C) Mrs N Macauley 8 5 ... P McCabe 6 V
9 44250- COOL KATIE (165) K Ryan 8 2 ... A McCarthy (3) 8
10 -41 LIVE TO TELL (14) (CD) M Saunders 7 13 ... J Quinn 2
11 -06021 SOUNDS LUCKY (3) (C) N Littmoden 7 11 (6ex) ... J Tate 4
12 340 SAND STORM (8) (C) M Wang 7 10 ... P Fessey 7 B
13 6-00 ANGIE MARINIE (22) R Fahey 7 10 ... P Hanagan (7) 11
– 13 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Angie Marinie 7st 2lb.

BETTING: 5-1 Avondale Girl, 11-2 Live To Tell, 6-1 Seven Springs, 8-1 Done And Dusted, Trina's Pet, Light Breeze, 10-1 Cantgetyourbreath, Keen Hands, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT
Some interesting contenders here, notably **SEVEN SPRINGS**, who looked a decent all-weather prospect when winning over this course and distance on his final juvenile start. That form was franked sufficiently for him to look reasonably treated despite top weight today and his chance is highlighted by the interesting jockey booking. Sounds Lucky is ahead of the handicapper with only a 6lb penalty for a runaway win in selling company over 5f here on Wednesday, but perhaps the step back up in trip will be his undoing. Speedy Live To Tell, impossible to assess accurately, has improvement in her and is a live danger.

RESULTS

NEWBURY

Going: Chase – Soft
Hurdles – Soft (Good to Soft in places)

2.10: (2m 3f 4yo hurdle)
1. CORNICHE ... L Harvey 5-2
2. Mesamadas ... M A Fitzgerald 9-4 fav
3. Tales of Bounty ... P Holley 5-1
Also ran: 13-2 Goodwood Cavalier (4th), 14-1 Cage Aux Folles, Fayez, 25-1 Marquante, Tiye (5th), 33-1 Asnbox, 66-1 Mrs Pickles (6th), Tabernacle.
11 ran. 1¼, 7, 21, 3½, 3. (*Winner bay or brown colt by Marju out of Fer But Near, trained by C Kellett for John Marks*). Tote: £3.90; £1.30, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.54.

2.40: (2m 5f handicap hurdle)
1. TAUFAN BOY ... F Kenlry 7-1
2. Wisley Wonder ... C Maude 20-1
3. Handy Lass ... R Widger 8-1
Also ran: 2-1 jt favs Dangerous Guest (5th), Who Am I (6th), 11-2 Arctic Chanter, 40-1 Sheriffmuir (4th).
7 ran. 2, 1¼, 6, 16, 3. (*Winner bay gelding by Taufan out of Lydia Maria, trained by G Balding at Fyfield for Supreme Team*). Tote: £6.10; £2.10, £6.00. DF: £30.00. CSF: £96.93.

3.15: (2m 1f handicap chase)
1. BUCKLAND LAD ... N Williamson 9-4
2. Native Fling ... R Widger 8-11 fav
3. Morstock ... P Holley 4-1
3 ran. 2, 28. (*Winner chestnut gelding by Phardante out of Belcraig, trained by D Grissell at Robertsbridge for Mrs R M Hepburn*). Tote: £3.00. DF: £1.30. CSF: £4.04. NR: Edelweis Du Moulin.

3.45: (3m novice handicap chase)
1. WISLEY WARRIOR ... C Llewellyn 8-1
2. Dunnicks View ... S Burrough 9-1
3. Raqib ... N Williamson 6-4 fav
Also ran: 4-1 Harding, 11-2 Act of Faith (5th), 10-1 Belmorebruno (4th).
6 ran. 18, 12, ½, dist. (*Winner bay gelding by Derring Rose out of Miss Topem, trained by N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham for the Wisley Golf Partnership*). Tote: £10.10; £2.60, £3.10. DF: £19.80. CSF: £54.27.

4.20: (2m 110yds NH novice hurdle)
1. ARTADOIN LAD ... R Dunwoody 4-6 fav
2. Hardly ... J Culloty 100-30
3. Clear Sides ... C Llewellyn 13-2
Also ran: 14-1 Pointed Remark, 20-1 Gunnerblong (4th), 25-1 Troubled Man (5th), 50-1 Barbizon (6th), 100-1 Atto, Willet Wizard.
9 ran. 3½, ¾, 7, dist, 1½. (*Winner bay gelding by Kings Ride out of Nun Merrier, trained by Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn for J Shaw*). Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.30, £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £2.77.

4.50: (2m 5f novice handicap hurdle)
1. BOWLES PATROL ... G Supple 3-1 fav
2. Damp Course ... J Goldstein 7-2
3. Mancini ... O McPhail 14-1
Also ran: 7-2 Jabiru (6th), 6-1 Dark Romance, 10-1 Bassano (4th), 14-1 Noble Athlete (5th), 20-1 How To Run.
8 ran. ½, 2½, 24, 8, 11. (*Winner grey gelding by Roselier out of Another Dud, trained by John R Upson at Adstone for Mrs Eva Ellis*). Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £1.40, £2.90. DF: £4.90. CSF: £12.17. Tricast: £106.11.

5.25: (3m hunter chase)
1. ROUGH QUEST ... Mr M Bradburne evens fav
2. All Weather ... Mr M Wilesmith 16-1
3. Pontabula ... Mr A Charles-Jones 40-1
Also ran: 11-8 Stalbridge Bill, 11-1 Loyal Note, 33-1 Alska, 50-1 Spuffington.
7 ran. 6, 1¼. (*Winner bay gelding by Crash Course out of Our Quest, trained by T Casey at Upper Lambourn for A T A Wates*). Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £2.30. DF: £17.70. CSF: £14.27.
Placepot: £247.80. Quadpot: £36.70.
Place 6: £1025.92. Place 5: £846.16.

DONCASTER

Going: Good to Soft

2.00: 1. ROLFE (W Marston) 40-1; 2. Saint Ciel 8-1; 3. Grooving 1-4 fav. 10 ran. 14, 3½. (S Brookshaw, Uffington). Tote: £42.30; £3.90, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £122.80. CSF: £284.98. NR: Dancing At Laham, Willie B Brave.

2.30: 1. SUMO (R Farrant) 20-1; 2. Northern Accord 4-1 fav; 3. Mesandtwo 16-1; 4. Helmsley Flier 20-1. 17 ran. ½, ¾. (Mrs S Lamyman, Lincoln). Tote: £27.90; £5.00, £1.70, £4.60, £7.70. DF: £124.20. CSF: £94.63. Tricast: £1,285.87. NR: Dynamic Lord.

3.05: 1. DRAGONS BAY (Mr A Dempsey) 5-1; 2. Lough Lein Spirit 6-1; 3. Chevalier Bayard 8-1. 9 ran. 7-2 fav Dan De Man (6th). 17, 2. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Tote: £6.00; £2.00, £2.90, £1.10. DF: £20.20. CSF: £30.53. Tricast: £207.33.

3.35: 1. SALMON BREEZE (R Johnson) 7-4; 2. Carlisle Bandito's 6-1; 3. Military Academy 5-4 fav. 9 ran. ¾, 13. (N Henderson, Lambourn). Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £1.20, £1.40. DF: £7.10. CSF: £10.70.

4.10: 1. PROFESSOR COOL (W Marston) 13-8 fav; 2. Memsahib Ofesteem 7-4; 3. The Granby 8-1. 15 ran. 9, ½. (J Mackie, Church Broughton). Tote: £3.00; £1.70, £1.20, £2.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £4.33. NR: Midevon Minstrel, Powder Hound, Tell Monty.

4.40: 1. HILTONSTOWN LASS (Mr R Walford) 9-2 co fav; 2. Pontoon Bridge 16-1; 3. Nodform Wonder 6-1. 19 ran. 9-2 co favs Gale Toi, James The First (pulled up). 14, nk. (T Walford, Sheriff Hutton). Tote: £4.20; £1.60, £4.90, £1.60. DF: £44.90. CSF: £82.59.

5.15: 1. SOEUR DE SENTIER (D Gallagher) 20-1; 2. Double Or Quits 20-1; 3. Elegant City 13-2. 9 ran. 15-8 jt favs Goodthyne Lady (4th), Danzig Rose. 10, sh-hd. (S Gollings, Louth). Tote: £35.50; £5.80, £3.80, £2.60. DF: £341.90. CSF: £317.48. NR: Osocool, Shirley Keeldar.

Jackpot: Not won; £142,969.68 carried forward to Doncaster today.

Placepot: £56.30. Quadpot: £5.50.
Place 6: £21.12. Place 5: £18.15.

KELSO

Going: Soft, heavy in places

2.20: 1. ILAHABAD (A Dobbin) 2-9 fav; 2. Cinder Hills 11-2; 3. Happy Days 66-1. 6 ran. 3½, 8. (J FitzGerald). Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.72.

2.50: 1. CASTLE RED (A Dobbin) 14-1; 2. Bold Action 7-2; 3. Cross The Rubicon 100-1. 11 ran. 9-4 fav Menshaar (4th). 21, 27. (J H Johnson). Tote: £12.30; £2.20, £2.10, £13.50. DF: £26.40. CSF: £48.07. NR: Fingerhill, Spirit of Steel.

3.25: 1. CRAZY HORSE (R Supple) 11-8; 2. Tessajoe 10-1; 3. Major Sponsor 6-5 fav. 7 ran. 8, 16. (L Lungo). Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £3.90. DF: £14.10. CSF: £14.58. NR: Knockara Fair.

3.55: 1. SHANAGARRY (A Maguire) 7-4; 2. Solsgirth 5-1; 3. Ballyline 12-1. 5 ran. 6-4 fav Feels Like Gold (4th). 11, 8. (F Murphy). Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.80. CSF: £8.91.

4.30: 1. SCOTMAIL LAD (N Hannity) 5-1 fav; 2. Kakashda 50-1; 3. My Saltarello 16-1. 11 ran. 4, 1¼. (G Moore). Tote: £3.80; £1.90, £15.50, £3.00. DF: £434.80. CSF: £132.51. Tricast: £1912.08. Trifecta: £4,979.40; £4,208.01 carried forward to Doncaster 3.35 today.

5.00: 1. SWANBISTER (Mr B Gibson) 100-30 fav; 2. Bright Destiny 7-2; 3. Zamhareer 11-2. 7 ran. 1½, 1¼. (L Lungo). Tote: £3.40; £2.90, £2.20. DF: £9.70. CSF: £12.73.

Placepot: £118.00. Quadpot: £26.70.
Place 6: £66.98. Place 5: £64.21.

هكذا من الاعلى

Adair entered for the Derby

THE EX-AMERICAN colt Adair is to be entered in the Derby, Godolphin confirmed yesterday. Sheikh Mohammed's organisation already have the Kentucky Derby hope Aljabr in the Epsom Classic, for which there were 143 acceptors after the first forfeit stage yesterday.

Adair was bought privately to join the Dubai-based team after an 11-length win on his debut at Belmont Park in New York last October.

Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said: "Adair is not entered in the Derby at present, but it is our intention to enter him at the next entry stage in April. Judged on what we have seen he is a very promising colt and we hope he will make up into a really useful middle-distance prospect. He has had only one run so far and we will need more evidence before he becomes a real live Derby prospect."

Adair is the 12-1 second favourite for the Classic, behind Commander Collins at 10-1. Crisford added: "The other Godolphin horses for the Derby at the moment are Dubai Millennium, Mukhalif, Mutafaweq and Rhagaas. They are all lightly-raced, unexposed horses who should be suited by a mile and a half."

The trainer Aidan O'Brien has left 18 in the race, including Orpen, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky and Genghis Khan – an unraced half-brother to Generous, the 1991 Derby winner.

Godolphin are responsible for 19 of the 110 entries in the Oaks, with their Saytarra entered for both the Oaks and the Derby.

DERBY: William Hill: 10-1 Commander Collins, 12-1 Adair, 16-1 Aljabr, Dubai Millennium, Rhagaas, 20-1 others.

PUNTERS' GUIDE

Major Bell should assume command

The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses Doncaster's Grimthorpe Chase

Baronet: Showed he is as good as ever in his two races this season and looked impressive against Him Of Praise at Cheltenham last time. He stays very well and will not be stopped by topweight.

Avro Anson: Pulled up on his only outing of the season at Wetherby. That was back in October, so there could be some doubt about his fitness.

Strath Royal: Ran well for an old stager earlier in the season but has gone off the boil.

Major Bell: Returns to the scene of his triumph in the Great Yorkshire Chase and has every chance of following up. The Major is a game and genuine horse who always jumps well.

In Truth: A long way behind Major Bell on his latest start and needs to improve dramatically to reverse the form.

Conclusion: The Scottish Grand National winner Baronet poses a serious threat, even under a big weight. However, he may struggle to match strides with **MAJOR BELL**, who can add this notable prize to his victory in the Great Yorkshire Chase at Town Moor in January.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

DONCASTER

3.05: The ground was on the soft side yesterday and further rain is expected. That is good news for **MASTER PILGRIM**, who has done little wrong since joining Venetia Williams. **Cathedral Belle** has also shown a liking for the mud, but the rains have arrived at the wrong time for **Native Recruit**.

❑❑❑

3.35: HARFDECENT is smack on the 10st mark and can deliver a telling finishing kick. He returned to winning form on the course 10 days ago so gets the vote over the bold-jumping **Listen Timmy**, who has to concede him two stone. **Noble Lord** is having his pipe-opener for the two-mile Grand Annual at Cheltenham.

❑❑❑

4.10: MAJOR BELL had taken such a big drop in the weights that he can still be considered well handicapped even after his win in the Great Yorkshire. Adrian Maguire rode him then but now stays loyal to **Baronet**, who will do really well to defy 12st in the testing conditions. The ground will suit Brian Harding's mount, who enjoys a massive 25lb pull with Baronet on their running in the Scottish National.

❑❑❑

4.40: The step up to 3m could be the making of **LORD OF LOVE**, who stayed on in good style to split Champion Hurdle hopes Lady Cricket and Toto Toscato at Fontwell last time out. The reliable **Just Nip** and exciting novice **Goodtime George** look the chief opposition.

10-YR-TALE ON GRIMTHORPE CHASE

	1989	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Fate of the favourites:	3	1	U	2	2	1	1	F	3-4	1
Winner's place in betting:	2	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	3	1
Starting-prices:	2-1	5-4	5-2	4-1	5-1	3-1	15-8	11-2	9-2	7-4
Winners' weights:	11.2	11.0	11.2	10.3	11.7	10.6	10.11	10.8	10.11	10.8
Winners' ages:	8	7	8	9	10	9	11	8	6	7

Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites +£1.87 Second Favourites -£3.50

Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 70%

Shortest-priced winner: Damers Cavalry (1990) 5-4 U unseated rider, F fell

Longest-priced winner: Addington Boy (1996) 11-2

Top trainer: R Lee (3) – Damers Cavalry (1990, 1992 & 1993)

Top jockey: No jockey has won this race more than once in the past 10 years

FIRST SHOW

DONCASTER 2.30

	C	H	L	S	T
Alabang	9-2	5-1	4-1	5-1	11-2
Lawahik	7-2	9-2	5-1	5-1	4-1
Kathryn's Pet	11-2	5-1	5-1	11-2	5-1
Good Vibes	6-1	13-2	7-1	6-1	7-1
Balladur	8-1	6-1	7-1	6-1	7-1
House Of Dreams	10-1	9-1	8-1	9-1	8-1
Indiana Princess	10-1	9-1	7-1	7-1	9-1
New Inn	10-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	10-1
Real Estate	12-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Samanid	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	11-1
Mr Moriarty	25-1	16-1	22-1	33-1	25-1

Each-way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

DONCASTER 3.35

	C	H	L	S	T
Noble Lord	4-1	4-1	4-1	9-2	4-1
Harfdecent	9-2	7-2	9-2	5-1	9-2
Listen Timmy	10-3	4-1	4-1	5-1	4-1
Dr Bones	5-1	7-1	6-1	13-2	13-2
Smolensk	7-1	6-1	6-1	11-2	6-1
Tom Brodie	7-1	7-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Golden Hello	14-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Hurricane Lamp	14-1	12-1	10-1	12-1	12-1
Glamanglitz	16-1	18-1	22-1	14-1	16-1
Marble Man	40-1	33-1	40-1	25-1	33-1
Shadrach	40-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Monaughty Man	500-1	500-1	250-1	500-1	400-1

Each-way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Coral, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

DONCASTER 4.40

	C	H	L	S	T
Goodtime George	3-1	11-4	3-1	10-3	11-4
Just Nip	10-3	7-2	7-2	4-1	7-2
Merry Masquerade	7-2	7-2	7-2	5-1	7-2
Brackenheath	5-1	5-1	5-1	9-2	4-1
Lord Of Love	7-1	8-1	8-1	6-1	8-1
Alzoomo	10-1	9-1	9-1	13-2	9-1
Churchtown Glen	12-1	12-1	10-1	12-1	11-1
Tilty	20-1	20-1	16-1	16-1	20-1

Each-way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Coral, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

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	LIVE COMMENTARIES	RESULTS
NEWBURY	971	981
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WARWICK	973	983
HUNTINGDON	974	984
WOLVERHAMPTON (E)	975	985

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DONCASTER

HYPERION

2.00 Eagles Rest
2.30 Kathryn's Pet (nb)
3.05 Master Pilgrim
3.35 Harfdecent
4.10 Major Bell
4.40 Lord Of Love
5.10 Commandant

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).
■ Left-hand, pear-shaped course.
■ Course is E of town off the A638 (M18 Jcts 3 & 4). Bus link from Doncaster Central station. ADMISSION: Club £15; Grandstand £9; Family Enclosure £4 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 16-98 (16.3%), N Henderson 11-36 (30.6%), D Nicholson 10-59 (16.9%), T Easterby 8-35 (22.9%), J FitzGerald 8-53 (15.1%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Carberry 11-40 (27.5%), M A Fitzgerald 11-45 (24.4%), P Niven 11-65 (16.9%), R Garritty 9-57 (15.8%), L Wyer 9-60 (15%), R Guest 8-43 (18.6%).
■ FAVOURITES: 94-253 (37.2%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.00 PARDUBICE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,940

1 4-6120 AMLWCH (50) (CD) (Lord Mostyn) J Berry 8 11 8 ... B Powell
2 -244U1 CIRCUS STAR (11) (D) (The Ringmasters) D Nicholson 6 11 8 ... R Johnson
3 62/12U EAGLES REST (14) (D) (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 8 11 8 ... J Osborne
4 362304 NON VINTAGE (11) (D) (Alan Mann) M Chapman 8 11 8 ... W Worthington
5 211-P2 ANDANITO (9) (D) (Lady Sarah Clutton) Lady Herries 8 11 2 ... S Durack
6 30-404 RODDERS (29) (R W Metcalfe) J Glover 6 11 2 ... D Gallagher
7 P THE BIG YIN (153) (R J Lewis) J McConnochie 10 11 2 ... S Curran

– 7 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Eagles Rest, 2-1 Circus Star, 11-2 Andanito, 6-1 Amlwch, 7-1 Non Vintage, 33-1 others
1998: Potter's Gale 7 11 2 A Maguire 4-11 fav (D Nicholson) 3 ran

FORM GUIDE

Amlwch: Took well to fences with win over C&D (good; 4-runner race) and second in novice handicap at Catterick (2m, soft). Well below form 8 days after latter
Circus Star: Has not won anything like the number of races which his ability would suggest, but did take a weak race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft) last time. Useful earlier in two races at Cheltenham. Every chance if he goes through with his effort
Eagles Rest: Beat Dines 4 lengths at Kempton (2m, heavy) on chasing debut. Well held behind Flagship Uberalles at same course next time, before disappointing (beaten when unseating 3 out) at Ascot. The one to beat if he returns to form
Non Vintage: Frequently placed but seldom a winner. One of his better chasing efforts last time, but was 12 lengths behind Circus Star and is only 6lb better off here
Andanito: Has not convinced in two starts as a chaser, but put up fair effort on form when 8 lengths second to Country Beau at Wincanton (2m, good to soft) last week
Rodders: Fair bumper form at best. 20 lengths fourth of 8 in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m3f, good) gives him plenty to find. He has also had breathing problems
The Big Yin: 12-1, racecourse debut aged 9 when pulled up in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m3f, soft) in October. Not much to go on and nothing to encourage

VERDICT: On form, this rests between Circus Star and EAGLES REST, but Circus Star is unreliable in a finish and Eagles Rest was in the process of running a poor race when he parted company with his jockey last time out. Both act on a sound surface, and Eagles Rest is given another chance, meriting the selection ahead of Andanito, who would figure prominently with an improvement in his jumping technique.

2.30 LIGHT INFANTRY PLATE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,627

1 3/11-2 GOOD VIBES (133) (D) (BF) (G E Shouler) T Easterby 7 12 0 ... L Wyer
2 232F-6 ALABANG (18) (D) (Elite Racing Club) Miss J A Camacho 8 11 5 ... J Osborne
3 5/5800 REAL ESTATE (14) (D) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 5 11 1 ... R Johnson
4 1432- LAWAHIK (21) (D) (Jack Joseph) C Mann 5 10 12 ... D Gallagher
5 503050 NEW INN (10) (CD) (John Semple, Mr John & Mrs Val Chill) S Gollings 8 10 10 . S Durack
6 0-0P15 BALLADUR (USA) (35) (D) (Peters and Lee) Mrs J Pitman 6 10 10 ... B Powell
7 2-1115 KATHRYN'S PET (10) (CD) (BF) (Bill Brown) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 9 ... Mr A Dempsey (3)
8 6-13F INDIANA PRINCESS (86) (D) (Wensdale Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 6 10 8 ... P Niven
9 125-4P MR MORIARTY (224) (CD) (D H Bowring) S Bowring 8 10 8 ... T Descombe
10 31-066 HOUSE OF DREAMS (12) (D) (J & M Leisure) G M Moore 7 10 5 ... A Maguire
11 2462PU SAMANID (10) (D) (Mrs Theresa O'Toole) Miss L Siddall 7 10 4 ... T Siddall (5)

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Alabang, Kathryn's Pet, 11-2 Lawahik, 7-1 Balladur, Indiana Princess, 8-1 Good Vibes, House Of Dreams, 12-1 New Inn, 14-1 Real Estate, Samanid, 20-1 Mr Moriarty
1998: Effectual 5 11 3 S Kelly (7) evens fav (Miss V Williams) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

Good Vibes: Decent bumper and novice winner facing stiff task with 12st on first start since his encouraging 2nd to Whip Hand at Market Rasen in October
Alabang: Smart hurdler in 1996 and fancied when beaten and falling at final flight in last year's Imperial Cup. Better for seasonal run behind Fatehalkhair at Sedgefield
Real Estate: Had his day at Ascot in November and generally hard to place. Well held on latest runs, tailed off behind Young Spartacus at Warwick a fortnight ago
Lawahik: Decent novice (Haydock debut winner on soft) and contests first handicap after creditable runs behind Davoski at Kempton and Samakaan at Haydock
New Inn: Beaten when last-flight faller in this last year (soft ground). Goes well here when the ground is fast and stiff task last time on the course when 8th to Ginger Fox
Balladur: Trotted up in bad race at Fakenham (wore tongue strap) and 5th to Rainwatch at Cheltenham. Useful on his day and likely to figure back in weaker grade
Kathryn's Pet: Progressive and beat Samanid easy 2 lengths over C&D in January. Probably found ground too fast here next time when favourite and 6th to Ginger Fox
Indiana Princess: Four times winner at smaller meetings. Fell in Mukdar's race at Huntingdon in early December. May need this run
Mr Moriarty: Fast-ground lover and unlikely to trouble the principals on this first attempt since pulling up in Call My Guest's race at Market Rasen in July
House Of Dreams: Prefers fastish ground so heavy rain would count against him. Stiff tasks all runs this term (won three times on Flat last year)
Samanid: Gurgled at Haydock after 2-length 2nd to Kathryn's Pet here (5lb better). Unseated 4th here last time in Ginger Fox's race

VERDICT: The ground may have been a shade too fast for KATHRYN'S PET here last time and the mare is best judged on the earlier very smooth course win from Samanid. She can be fancied to confirm superiority on just 5lb worse terms. Balladur is sure to go well in this class, as should decent novice Lawahik. House Of Dreams has his best opportunity for some time but the ground is a worry.

3.05 STAKIS CASINOS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £5,576 C4

1 42-211 MASTER PILGRIM (12) (The Winning Line) Miss V Williams 7 11 12 ... A Dobbin
white, black seams, white and yellow halved sleeves, yellow cap
2 -3154 NATIVE RECRUIT (9) (Jerry Wright) D Nicholson 6 11 12 ... R Johnson
dark blue, white triple diamond, diamonds on sleeves and cap
3 12311 CATHEDRAL BELLE (37) (Mrs Susan McDonald) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 7 ... G Lee
purple, white disc and cap
4 00P0 COOLAMILL (94) (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 7 11 2 ... M Brennan
black, white sleeves, black cap, white diamond
5 60 HIGH PYRENEES (82) (J Stephenson) F Murphy 7 11 2 ... A Maguire
red, beige sash, emerald green sleeves, beige and emerald green quartered cap
6 PHILOSOPHIC (F23) (Gallagher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jewell 5 11 2 ... B Powell
emerald green and white stripes, emerald green sleeves, white armlets, orange cap

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Master Pilgrim, 7-4 Cathedral Belle, 4-1 Native Recruit, 12-1 High Pyrenees, 33-1 others
1998: Lady Rebecca 6 11 3 N Williamson evens fav (Miss V Williams) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Master Pilgrim: Ex-Toby Balding trained and 2nd to the smart Prominent Profile on reappearance. Subsequent winner of weakish races at Fontwell. Today's trip ideal
Native Recruit: Dual good ground winner at Ludlow (2m5f). Highly tried against Barton at Sandown and then ran badly behind Lord Noelie at Wincanton (g/soft)
Cathedral Belle: Progressive mare with latest three wins gained in handicaps over 2m5f (beat Zahealie under 12st at Huntingdon last time). Likes cut in the ground
Coolamill: Has shown very little (7th to John Bush at Catterick last time) and looks outclassed
High Pyrenees: Well beaten on two attempts over 2m behind Lord Lamb at Newcastle but promise shown and today's longer trip very much in his favour
Philosophic: All-weather performer with wins from 1m5f to 2m. Best watched today facing stiff task on jumping debut

VERDICT: Native Recruit has struggled in better races since notching a double at Ludlow and he seems to want faster ground. Cathedral Belle has won handicaps in the mud and her sex allowance gives her a fighting chance against MASTER PILGRIM. Venetia Williams' charge landed the odds in a Fontwell handicap last time and the performance suggested today's 2m4f would prove spot on.

3.35 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (C) £20,000 added 2m 3f 110yds £14,070 C4

1 -P3F51 LISTEN TIMMY (NZ) (14) (D) (Sentinel Racing Club) S Brookshaw 10 12 0 ... A Dobbin
dark blue and yellow (halved), hooped sleeves, yellow cap
2 1-2614 HURRICANE LAMP (28) (E Mrs F C Welch) D Nicholson 8 11 9 ... R Johnson
emerald green, red cross belts, striped sleeves, red cap
3 1-4214 DR BONES (77) (Mrs Ann Fortune) F Murphy 6 11 7 ... A Maguire
red, white cross of lorraine, white sleeves, red armlets, black cap
4 4151-1 SMOLENSK (85) (C) (D) (Chris & Antonia Deuters) J Berry 7 11 2 ... B Powell
royal blue, red triple diamond, royal blue and white diabolo on sleeves, royal blue cap, red diamond
5 121134 TOM BRODIE (16) (D) (Mrs M W Bird) J Howard Johnson 9 11 0 ... A S Smith
purple and white (halved), purple sleeves, striped cap
6 210-21 NOBLE LORD (105) (Jeff McCarthy) R Phillips 6 10 11 ... J Osborne
emerald green, beige cross belts and armlets, quartered cap
7 -21245 GLAMANGLITZ (36) (CD) (Mrs Julie Martin) P Dalton 9 10 10 ... S Durack
dark blue and yellow (halved), dark blue sleeves, yellow cap
8 530422 GOLDEN HELLO (4) (C) (G E Shouler) T Easterby 8 10 6 ... B Harding
royal blue, white cross of lorraine, white cap
9 12-F31 HARFDECENT (10) (CD) (A G Knowles) Mrs M Reveley 8 10 0 ... P Niven
dark blue, white spots, hooped sleeves, quartered cap
10 541F30 MARBLE MAN (36) (D J Lever) M Pell 9 10 0 ... L Cooper (7)
emerald green, yellow chevron, diabolo on sleeves, yellow cap
11 /5312- SHADRACH (308) (Mrs Kate Sunderland) Mrs H Mobley 8 10 0 ... D Gallagher
royal blue, yellow cross belts, hooped sleeves, dark blue cap
12 345P0U MONAUGHTY MAN (7) (Mrs Karen Woodhead) E Caine 13 10 0 ... Mr O Fagan
white, royal blue spots, purple sleeves and cap

– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Marble Man 9st 7lb, Shadrach 9st 3lb, Monaughty Man 8st 12.
BETTING: 4-1 Noble Lord, Harfdecent, 9-2 Listen Timmy, 6-1 Smolensk, Dr Bones, Tom Brodie, 10-1 Hurricane Lamp, 12-1 Golden Hello, 25-1 Glamanglitz, 50-1 others
1998: Easthorpe 10 10 13 J Tizzey 7-2 (Miss H Knight) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Listen Timmy: Jumped well when dropped in distance (2m4f) at Newcastle to beat Tullymurry Toff 11 lengths last time. Stiffer test today off 9lb higher mark
Hurricane Lamp: Decent at 2m and made mistakes over this trip behind Red Marauder at Ascot. Has since beaten Green Green Desert at Sandown then stiff task on same course when last of 4 to Edredon Bleu. Now tried again over longer trip
Dr Bones: Acts well on good ground. Weighted to confirm Wetherby form with Listen Timmy and trip too far at Ascot last time (4th to Torduff Express over 3m)
Smolensk: Pacey sort best on a fastish surface. Easily beat Non Vintage here (2m) on reappearance but longer trip in this ground a worry
Tom Brodie: Beat Dr Bones over 2m at Wetherby but faded last time at Sandown when last of 4 to Dantes Cavalier (2m). Goes well for today's rider but trip a problem
Noble Lord: Won impressively (jumped boldly) from Ballad Minstrel at Aintree in November and now off 7lb higher mark. Probably best over minimum but fine chance
Glamanglitz: Well beaten 5th to The Outback Way here last time and all wins gained on faster ground
Golden Hello: Poor showing behind Smolensk here in December but better run last time when 2nd to Xaipete at Musselburgh. 2nd to Corston Joker (2m3f) last term
Harfdecent: Open to further improvement and appreciated return to further when beating Jason's Boy 12 lengths over C&D last time. Stronger race today but chances
Marble Man: 15-length 2nd in this race last year. Best over 2m and broke blood vessel here last time in race won by The Outback Way
Shadrach: Points winner and beat 3 rivals in novice at Towcester before 2-length 2nd to Classy Lad at Hereford last May. Unraced since and 11lb out of handicap
Monaughty Man: No chance

VERDICT: NOBLE LORD has his warm up race for Cheltenham where he is likely to contest the Grand Annual. He must have a leading chance if he stays this extra 3f. Listen Timmy impressed with his jumping at Newcastle but this looks a tougher test having to shoulder 12st. Harfdecent gets two stone from Listen Timmy and rates a threat to them all after returning to form ten days ago.

4.10 GRIMTHORPE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £13,316 C4

1 151-31 BARONET (64) (Mrs David Thompson) D Nicholson 9 12 0 ... A Maguire
pink, purple cross belts, hooped sleeves, purple cap
2 5/3P-P AVRO ANSON (126) (C) (Axom) Miss J A Camacho 11 11 12 ... P Niven
dark blue, white sleeves, dark blue diamonds, white cap, dark blue diamonds
3 535P0 STRATH ROYAL (42) (C) (D) (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 13 11 7 ... M Brennan
black, white sleeves, black cap, white diamond
4 -03541 MAJOR BELL (35) (C) (I T Middlemiss, I McAllan, W Hume) A Whillans 11 10 8 B Harding
royal blue and white diamonds, royal blue sleeves, light blue armlets, royal blue and white quartered cap
5 1-P435 IN TRUTH (35) (Mrs E Houlton) S Gollings 11 10 0 ... S Durack
purple and white diamonds, striped sleeves and cap

– 5 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: In Truth 9st 13lb.
BETTING: 6-4 Major Bell, 2-1 Baronet, 5-1 Strath Royal, 6-1 In Truth, 14-1 Avro Anson
1998: The Toiseach 7 10 6 A Dobbin 7-4 fav (J Fanshawe) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Baronet: Scottish National winner with Major Bell in 9th. Game winner from Him Of Praise (successful since) at Cheltenham (4m1f) last time (5lb higher mark today)
Avro Anson: Formerly smart chaser but not as good nowadays. Prefers better ground and hasn't raced since pulling up in a hurdle at Wetherby in October
Strath Royal: Has struggled since a win from Boss Doyle at Wetherby, finishing last of 10 to General Wolfe at Haydock on latest start. Still has fine chance in this grade
Major Bell: Relished the trip and given inspired ride by Maguire to beat Mr Strong Gale in Great Yorkshire here. 7lb higher mark today but well weighted with Baronet
In Truth: Well beaten in this race last year and 23 lengths behind Major Bell in Great Yorkshire last time. Enjoys 12lb pull

VERDICT: MAJOR BELL doesn't have Adrian Maguire to help today but Brian Harding knows him well and the gelding is in the form to follow up his win in the Great Yorkshire. Major Bell has slipped down the weights and must have a winning chance with a 25lb pull with Baronet compared to the Scottish National. Strath Royal remains a highly capable performer but the 13lb concession to Major Bell may prove too much.

4.40 PARDUBICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £6,627 C4

1 -13412 JUST NIP (28) (B Seal, D & M Evans) Mrs L Richards 6 11 10 ... J Osborne
dark blue and emerald green check, dark blue sleeves, maroon cap
2 0-2211 GOODTIME GEORGE (38) (CD) (Mrs M J Bone) Mrs J Pitman 6 11 8 ... R Johnson
mauve, black stars, mauve cap
3 P022F2 BRACKENHEATH (22) (D) (John Grist) D Grissell 8 11 0 ... A Maguire B
yellow, black star, diabolo on sleeves, yellow cap, black stars
4 2111-3 MERRY MASQUERADE (85) (D) (G S Brown) Mrs M Reveley 8 10 8 ... P Niven
yellow, black chevrons, yellow sleeves, hooped cap
5 301150 CHURCHTOWN GLEN (28) (J & C Tipton) S Brookshaw 6 10 7 ... A Dobbin
yellow, purple hoops, purple sleeves
6 102212 LORD OF LOVE (12) (Mouse Racing) D Williams 4 10 5 ... B Clifford
yellow, black stars, sleeves and star on cap
7 2P-P10 TILTY (USA) (44) (Cheadle Racing) A Streeter 9 10 3 ... S Durack V
red, emerald green hollow box
8 /P1330 ALZOOMO (15) (C) (BF) (L A Jackson) J Glover 7 10 3 ... D Gallagher
white, light green stars

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Goodtime George, 4-1 Just Nip, Merry Masquerade, 5-1 Brackenheath, 6-1 Lord Of Love, 10-1 Alzoomo, 10-1 Churchtown Glen, 14-1 Tilty
1998 What's Your Story 9 11 5 R Garritty 9-4 fav (P R Webber) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Just Nip: Consistent and top handicap form with his 3½ lengths second to Teaatral at Sandown (2m6f, good to soft). Put up 3lb since. First try at 3m should suit him
Goodtime George: Good-looking novice, wide-margin 3m winner last two starts at Stratford (heavy) and Doncaster (good to soft). Plenty of potential and respected
Brackenheath: Front-runner, badly out of form this term (tried 3 times over fences) until short-head second to Flying Gunner at Newbury (3m, good to soft) last time
Merry Masquerade: Strapping 8yo, originally set for chasing this term. Won last three starts last season on soft and very promising third at Newcastle on return. Stays well
Churchtown Glen: Progressive this term, winning at 2m4f and 2m6f. Faded when below form on two previous starts (including latest) at around 3m, both on very soft ground
Lord Of Love: Won 3-runner race at Lingfield (2m3f, heavy) by 24 lengths and then stayed on late when 6 lengths second of 3 to Lady Cricket in conditions event at Fontwell (2m2f, good to soft). Hard to assess, likely to stay 3m and possibly suited by soft surface
Tilty: Temperamental stayer, easily best effort this term when winning 17-runner handicap at Catterick (3m1f, good). Acts on good to soft. Cannot be trusted
Alzoomo: First try at 3m having finished well at 2m4f for best efforts this term, winning in December and third of 12 in January, both at this track. Poor effort last time

VERDICT: A very interesting handicap, with Just Nip's form from one of the season's most competitive handicaps set against the considerable promise of Goodtime George and MERRY MASQUERADE. Mary Reveley's charge gets the vote, despite his three-month absence, after an eye-catching reappearance effort behind his stable-companion Alpine Panther. Lord Of Love is the other one to consider.

5.10 TOWN MOOR STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,589

1 COMMANDANT (J G FitzGerald) J FitzGerald 6 11 4 ... P Ryan (7)
2 6 GOLDEN DEAL (59) (Forenesh Racing) T Etherington 6 11 4 ... S Durack
3 4-0 NOKIMOVER (58) (H G Llewellyn) J O'Shea 5 11 4 ... Doubtful
4 43 NO TALE TO TELL (86) (Mrs M A Powis) D Nicholson 5 11 4 ... R Massey
5 P-0 SPECS (85) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 5 11 4 ... H Oliver (5)
6 DROIT DE SEIGNEUR (USA) (Feelgood Factor Racing) J Norton 4 10 10 ... C Rafter (7)
7 IT WAS FOR NOTHING (Mrs Bridget Blum) P S McEntee 4 10 10 ... G F Ryan (3)
8 KING OF THE CASTLE (Robert Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 4 10 10 ... Mr T Gibney (5)
9 00 NICE BALANCE (USA) (4) (C Rosbottom) M Chapman 4 10 10 ... N Hannity (5)
10 PORT OF CALL (J Shine) R Marvin 4 10 10 ... Mr D Hayes (7)
11 SPARKY TOO (Northern Cladding Ltd) B Rothwell 4 10 10 ... R Winston (3)

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 King of The Castle, 7-2 No Tale To Tell, 5-1 Commandant, 7-1 Specs, 12-1 Golden Deal, 16-1 Droit de Seigneur, It Was For Nothing, Port of Call, 20-1 others
1998: Parlence Bay 6 11 4 Mr C Wilson 10-1 (Mrs A Swinbank) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

Commandant: 9000-guinea son of good bumper sire Good Thyne. Stable have good first-time-out strike rate in bumpers, so this debutant is well worth a second look
Golden Deal: 6yo by Gildoran out of a winning pointer. Beaten about 12½ lengths when sixth of 14 to Mr Lamb in a slowly-run race at Musselburgh (good) on debut
Nokimover: Fourth of 13 at Hereford (good) in May and seventh of 14 (2½ lengths behind Golden Deal) at Musselburgh in January. Has to improve
No Tale To Tell: 5yo by good bumper sire Be My Native. In frame at Newton Abbot and Ludlow, both on good to soft. Comparable form to the others with experience
Specs: 5yo by Be My Native. Second favourite, showed promise when never dangerous at Doncaster, although came only tenth of 18 to Baccarat. May improve
Droit De Seigneur: US-bred 4yo by Chief's Crown. Originally made $60,000 as a yearling but then changed hands for just 1200 guineas in 1998
It Was For Nothing: Flat-bred 4yo by River Falls out of a maiden who has not had a great record at stud with her five previous foals
King Of The Castle: 4yo by Cataldi, half-brother to a bumper winner. Stable has plenty of success in these contests. One for the short-list on that score alone
Nice Balance: 5yo by Shadeed. Bought for just 2,700 guineas last year
Port Of Call: 4yo by Arazi from a good Flat family
Sparky Too: 4yo by Totem out of a 2m4f novice hurdle winner

VERDICT: Those with experience look nothing special; the best may turn out to be SPECS, who attracted support on his debut and whose stable is in form in these contests. The most likely newcomers are Commandant and King Of The Castle.

NEWBURY

HYPERION

1.45 Gris D'Estruval 2.15 Yeoman Sailor 2.45 Careysville 3.15 Ricardo 3.50 Stately Home 4.20 PIETRO BEMBO (nap) 4.50 Ballinclay King

GOING: Hurdle course – Soft (Good to Soft in places); Chase course – Soft.
■ Left-hand course, with stiff fences.
■ Course is SE of town near A34. Railway station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £14; Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £4 (OAPs half price). Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Southmead £2; Picnic area £4; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 22-106 (20.8%), M Pipe 18-85 (21.2%), O Sherwood 16-55 (29.1%), N Henderson 16-103 (15.5%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne 36-111 (32.4%), M A Fitzgerald 18-145 (12.4%), R Dunwoody 16-111 (14.4%), C Llewellyn 15-114 (13.2%).
■ FAVOURITES: 148-369 (40.1%).
■ LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Ballinclay King (4.50) has been sent 245 miles.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.45 JACK O'NEWBURY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 4f

1 -314P3 SON OF ANSHAN (15) Mrs M Jones 8 11 12 ... N Williamson
2 0/2F FLEETING MANDATE (12) J S Moore 7 11 4 ... J Magee
3 /P-5F5 SNOWSHILL HARVEST (88) A Turnell 8 11 4 ... C Llewellyn
4 45-U36 TREE CREEPER (88) (BF) A Turnell 7 11 4 ... L Harvey
5 1R142/ ZAMBRANO (USA) (685) (D) D Williams 7 11 4 ... J A McCarthy
6 1-1112 GRIS D'ESTRUVAL (14) (D) (BF) M Pipe 5 11 3 ... A P McCoy

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 4-9 Gris D'Estruval, 4-1 Son Of Anshan, 5-1 Tree Creeper, 14-1 Zambrano, 50-1 others

FORM VERDICT

It's hard to oppose GRIS D'ESTRUVAL who is highly regarded by Martin Pipe and could well be heading for the Arkle at Cheltenham. He is the form choice on his Ascot second last time but he will be much better suited by going left handed this time and a big improvement can be expected today.

2.15 ROBERT IRONS 30TH BIRTHDAY 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (D) £4,000 2m 5f

1 02221 RASH REMARK (7) M Pipe 6 11 10 ... A P McCoy
2 120-41 CONCHOBOR (17) K Bailey 7 11 7 ... N Williamson
3 66-612 YEOMAN SAILOR (63) Mrs J Pitman 5 11 7 ... R Dunwoody
4 41- ASK THE DOCTOR (314) Miss A M N-Smith 6 11 2 ... J A McCarthy
5 1/12 BORO SOVEREIGN (51) (BF) N Henderson 6 11 2 ... M A Fitzgerald
6 20-604 LUGGSY (28) N Twiston-Davies 7 11 2 ... C Llewellyn
7 440-4P QUICKSWOOD (78) C Barwell 6 11 2 ... R Guest
8 30005/ SMART REMARK (705) R Simpson 7 11 2 ... B Dove (7)
9 5 SUNLIT BOY (65) I Balding 7 11 2 ... G Bradley
10 34 WELLINGTON (NZ) (30) N Gaselee 5 11 2 ... D Leahy
11 24 WINDSONG (47) A Turnell 5 11 2 ... P Hide

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Rash Remark, 7-2 Yeoman Sailor, 9-2 Boro Sovereign, 5-1 Conchobor, 8-1 Windsong, 12-1 Luggsy, 20-1 Ask The Doctor, Sunlit Boy, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Rash Remark galloped an ordinary field into submission at Haydock. He has a lot more on his plate now, however, and could meet his match in the improving YEOMAN SAILOR, whose course form stands up well.

2.45 BERKSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3m

1 1/1P- CHEVAL DE GUERRE (337) (D) K Bailey 8 11 10 ... N Williamson
2 P11-4P PARAHANDY (14) (D) J Mullins 9 11 5 ... R Guest
3 22P-12 MALWOOD CASTLE (37) (D) R Alner 9 11 1 ... M A Fitzgerald
4 F52-10 CAREYSVILLE (44) (D) (BF) Miss V Williams 8 10 6 ... A P McCoy

– 4 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Careysville, 5-2 Cheval De Guerre, 11-4 Malwood Castle, 11-2 Parahandy

FORM VERDICT

A refreshed CAREYSVILLE is worth another chance to confirm the good impression he created at Folkestone. Cheval De Guerre could be anything and commands plenty of respect, especially if the market speaks in his favour, while Malwood Castle should run his race and will expose any weakness in the two less exposed rivals.

3.15 ELEANOR HARRIS HEN PARTY H'CAP HURDLE (C) £6,500 added 2m 110yds

1 203014 KINNESCASH (70) (D) P Bowen 6 11 10 ... N Williamson
2 3-213 PERFECT VENUE (21) (D) N Henderson 6 11 6 ... M A Fitzgerald
3 2155/P FROGMARCH (USA) (22) (CD) R Phillips 9 10 13 ... J Leech
4 1P2222 FOREVER NOBLE (14) (D) O Sherwood 6 10 11 ... J A McCarthy
5 P-101 RICARDO (28) (D) Mrs J Pitman 5 10 10 ... R Dunwoody

– 5 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Ricardo, 3-1 Perfect Venue, Kinnescash, 7-2 Forever Noble, 20-1 Frogmarch

FORM VERDICT

A tricky little race. Frogmarch did not show much on his reappearance, but has everything in his favour if he does retain his ability. He may repay a saver, but FOREVER NOBLE, whose latest Warwick run looks solid form, is preferred.

3.50 NORTH SYDMONTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f

1 6P4058 STATELY HOME (92) (D) P Bowen 8 11 10 ... N Williamson
2 1-1423 ASHWELL BOY (78) (D) P Hobbs 8 11 9 ... R Dunwoody
3 1F/PP5 ELOUIS (FR) (47) M Pipe 7 10 6 ... A P McCoy B
4 52-2P3 TOO PLUSH (61) (CD) A Turnell 10 10 4 ... L Harvey

– 4 declared –

BETTING: 11-10 Ashwell Boy, 9-4 Stately Home, 3-1 Too Plush, 5-1 Elouis

FORM VERDICT

It's hard to fancy any of these under today's conditions with the top weights ASHWELL BOY and Stately Home wanting faster ground and the bottom two having shown nothing at all this season. Ashwell Boy is the most likely winner but it would be no surprise if Elouis improved for chasing.

4.20 LEVY BOARD NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m 110yds

1 -1120 HEART (54) (D) Miss H Knight 6 11 10 ... M Batchelor (5)
2 15 FLUSH (FR) (32) (D) M Pipe 4 11 8 ... A P McCoy
3 04-261 PIETRO BEMBO (70) (D) J Akehurst 5 11 8 ... R Dunwoody
4 -1130 TRALUIDE (FR) (7) (CD) M Pipe 4 11 8 ... N Williamson
5 031 COPPER COIN (93) (D) N Henderson 5 11 3 ... M A Fitzgerald
6 3/6P2- TIMIDJAR (304) D Gandolfo 6 10 12 ... Sophie Mitchell
7 02F6/0 KYLAMI (NZ) (21) J Gifford 7 10 0 ... O Burrows (5)

– 7 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Pietro Bembo, 3-1 Traluide, 7-2 Copper Coin, 6-1 Heart, Flush, Timidjar, 33-1 Kylami

FORM VERDICT

PIETRO BEMBO saw off two improving types in Krabloonik and Lizzy's First in impressive style on Boxing Day and a similar display will give him a first-rate chance of defying a significant rise in the weights.

4.50 THATCHAM STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (H) £2,000 added 2m 110yds

1 1 MATT HOLLAND (96) (D) Mrs L Wadham 6 11 9 ... Mr R Forristal (5)
2 13 QUEENS HARBOUR (68) (D) Mrs J Pitman 5 11 9 ... R Dunwoody
3 ARCTIC EARL Mrs P Duffield 5 11 2 ... N Wilmington (7)
4 2- BALLINCLAY KING (314) F Murphy 5 11 2 ... A P McCoy
5 044 FIOLINO (FR) (26) J Dunlop 6 11 2 ... Mr H Dunlop (7)
6 GUNNERBE POSH N Chance 5 11 2 ... N Mulholland (7)
7 KINGS GROVE N Henderson 6 11 2 ... M A Fitzgerald
8 2 LIGHTNING STRIKES (36) O Sherwood 5 11 2 ... J A McCarthy
9 4 MASTER RUSSELL (79) C Barwell 5 11 2 ... P Hide
10 ROSS MINSTER P Hobbs 5 11 2 ... N Williamson
11 SHOTGUN WILLY D Nicholson 5 11 2 ... O McPhail (5)
12 45 SPANISH MAIN (21) N Twiston-Davies 5 11 2 ... C Llewellyn
13 AUBURN SPIRIT M Usher 4 10 8 ... R Farrant
14 0 LARRY (26) R York 4 10 8 ... Mr P York
15 OHOSOHOLY J S Moore 4 10 3 ... J Magee

– 15 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Lightning Strikes, 11-4 Queens Harbour, 9-2 Matt Holland, 11-2 Kings Grove, 8-1 Ballinclay King, 10-1 Shotgun Willy, 14-1 Fiolino, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Two promising types here in LIGHTNING STRIKES and Queens Harbour mean that the newcomers will need to be above average to figure. Though Queens Harbour has the best form, Oliver Sherwood was most complimentary about Lightning Strikes recently, hinting that he had improvement in him. As such, Lightning Strikes may be able to come on enough from his good first run to win this.

HUNTINGDON

HYPERION

1.50 Take My Side 2.25 Stamford Hill 2.55 Saras Delight 3.25 North Tyne 4.00 Oscail An Doras 4.30 Heavens Above 5.00 Double Strike

GOING: Soft.
■ Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds.
■ Course is at junction of A1 and A604. Huntingdon station (service from London, King's Cross) 1m. ADMISSION: Members £13; Paddock £10 (OAP members of Diamond Club, and Students, half-price); Course £5. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ LEADING TRAINERS: K Bailey 18-89 (20.2%), G Hubbard 17-82 (20.7%), Mrs M Reveley 15-41 (36.6%), J Gifford 14-79 (17.7%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 21-81 (25.9%), M A Fitzgerald 17-93 (18.3%), P Hide 15-65 (23.1%), N Williamson 14-77 (18.2%).
■ FAVOURITES: 242-543 (44.6%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Silver Sea (2.25), Bolshie Baron (2.55), Stanbrook Lass (3.25).

1.50 BLACKMORE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m

1 6210U3 HAG'S WAY (33) (D) J H Johnson 9 11 10 ... Mr J Crowley B
2 3U035 ELEGANT DES COSSES (16) P Hobbs 7 11 4 ... Mr D O'Meara (7) B
3 33-535 TAKE MY SIDE (17) (D) M J Roberts 7 11 4 ... Mr R Forristal
4 26-345 HIGH LEARIE (70) (CD) A H Harvey 9 11 4 ... Mr P McAllister (7) B
5 F4/5P0 THREE SAINTS (39) H Daly 10 10 8 ... Mr N Fehily (5) B
6 2-PP4P HIGHLAND FLAME (15) A Blackmore 10 10 0 ... Mr C R Weaver (7)

– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Highland Flame 9st 8lb.
BETTING: 6-4 Hag's Way, 3-1 Elegant Des Cosses, 7-2 Take My Side, 9-2 High Learie, 8-1 Three Saints, 33-1 Highland Flame

FORM VERDICT

An unattractive race for betting, given that all the runners have a significant negative against them. Elegant des Cosses did best of the six last time and is much feared but tentative preference is for THREE SAINTS, who has the ability to win this off this mark if he is on a going day.

2.25 COLESDEN SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 110yds

1 432206 AINSI SOIT IL (FR) (16) (D) G McCourt 8 11 6 ... E Husband B
2 241222 BE BRAVE (5) (D) T Etherington 9 11 2 ... G Tormey B
3 0-6600 CAPTAIN BIGGLES (136) Miss A Stokell 7 11 2 ... Ann Stokell
4 P- CHEERFUL GROOM (F18) D Shaw 8 11 2 ... Gary Lyons
5 6-5006 INCHYDONEY BOY (10) Miss Z Davison 10 11 2 ... Mr A Irvine (7)
6 0- RISCATTO (USA) (F18) W Muir 5 11 2 ... A Bates (3)
7 00/0 SUN MARK (21) Miss J Craze 8 11 2 ... J Supple
8 0 FFRANCASAL (142) N Twiston-Davies 5 10 11 ... J Goldstein (3)
9 0 STAMFORD HILL (42) M Pipe 4 10 8 ... R Greene
10 PF TRUST GEORGE (16) C Kellett 4 10 8 ... Mr R Armson
11 P SILVER SEA (USA) (16) Mrs D Haine 4 10 3 ... M Cotton (7) B

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Be Brave, 7-2 Stamford Hill, Ainsi Soit Il, 7-1 Captain Biggles, 12-1 Inchydoney Boy, Sun Mark, 20-1 Cheerful Groom, Riscatto, Ffrancasal, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT

BE BRAVE is the pick on recent form and looks the answer to this. He has been running consistently well and is proven at this trip and on soft ground.

2.55 CHAWSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3m

1 3-3B12 SARAS DELIGHT (61) (BF) D Nicholson 7 11 10 ... R Thornton
2 01P25 ZAMBEZI SPIRIT (112) (D) Mrs M Jones 10 11 7 ... D Byrne
3 4-0PFU NORTHERN VILLAGE (6) L A Dace 12 11 6 ... L Aspell
4 -6P006 BAYLINE STAR (9) Miss S Baxter 9 11 0 ... Gary Lyons
5 -P1223 RAGAMUFF (32) P Hobbs 8 10 11 ... A Thornton
6 PP404P FOREVER DREAMING (39) (D) S Mellor 8 10 7 ... C Webb
7 65-50P MOONLIGHTER (11) C Jackson 9 10 0 ... R Bellamy
8 22/P0P BOLSHIE BARON (39) (D) M Weston 10 10 0 ... M Sherratt B

– 8 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Moonlighter 9st 12lb, Bolshie Baron 9st 7lb.
BETTING: 7-4 Saras Delight, 3-1 Ragamuff, 4-1 Zambezi Spirit, 7-1 Northern Village, Bayline Star, 10-1 Forever Dreaming, 20-1 Moonlighter, 33-1 Bolshie Baron

FORM VERDICT

A weak handicap with serious doubts about all except Saras Delight and RAGAMUFF. The latter is preferred because his Taunton third last time reads well, with a large field well beaten off behind.

3.25 JOE BRANDLER MEMORIAL 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2f

1 01230 YOUNG THRUSTER (40) (CD) N T-Davies 6 12 2 ... J Goldstein (3)
2 061 ARDENT OLIVER (38) D Nicholson 6 11 10 ... Mr H Hankey (7)
3 12-201 NORTH TYNE (32) R Alner 5 11 10 ... A Thornton
4 0P- BOBBY VIOLET (371) A Juckes 7 11 4 ... Gary Lyons
5 P-0 HOBNOB (54) M Pipe 6 11 4 ... R Greene
6 1-F00 SIR SAMUEL (8) K Bailey 6 11 4 ... R Wakley
7 0-344P QUEEN'S RIDE (25) H Daly 6 10 13 ... Mr N Fehily (7)
8 00 STANBROOK LASS (15) Mrs A E Johnson 6 10 13 ... V Smith B

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 North Tyne, 3-1 Young Thruster, 7-2 Ardent Oliver, 5-1 Queen's Ride, 8-1 Hobnob, 10-1 Sir Samuel, 20-1 Bobby Violet, Stanbrook Lass

FORM VERDICT

A handful of possibles here, and the winner will probably have to show improved form. NORTH TYNE is perhaps best equipped to do so, having shown smart bumper form last year. Young Thruster is more exposed so Ardent Oliver could be the main threat.

4.00 SAWTRY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 110yds

1 -F545P MULKEV PRINCE (32) (D) J H Johnson 8 12 0 ... Mr J Crowley (5)
2 -31585 COOLTEEN HERO (70) (D) R Alner 9 11 7 ... A Thornton
3 3D6111 OSCAIL AN DORAS (9) (CD) F Murphy 10 11 6 ... R Thornton
4 4U2336 HAWAIIAN YOUTH (16) (D) G McCourt 11 10 10 ... R Hobson (7)
5 -5343P BEYOND OUR REACH (9) (D) R Hodges 11 10 5 ... P Holley
6 4-302P SPECIALIZE (47) (D) K Burke 7 10 3 ... J Goldstein (3) B

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 5-6 Oscail An Doras, 6-1 Mulkev Prince, Hawaiian Youth, 8-1 Coolteen Hero, Beyond Our Reach, 10-1 Specialize

FORM VERDICT

Oscail An Doras is the in-form horse in a race in which all the others have a question mark against them. However he faces his stiffest task of the season and it could be worth taking a chance on SPECIALIZE who ran well under similar conditions here in December and can be forgiven his poor effort under a big weight last time.

4.30 WYBOSTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 -30156 CIPRIANI QUEEN (12) J Gifford 9 11 3 ... L Aspell
2 2/U330 B THE ONE (10) J J Quinn 8 11 2 ... G Tormey
3 3/32-3 HEAVENS ABOVE (9) (D) F Murphy 7 11 2 ... R Thornton
4 -4252R SURSUM CORDA (37) (C) (BF) H Daly 8 11 2 ... A Thornton
5 PP-6PP TUDOR FALCON (37) P Bradley 6 11 2 ... Gary Lyons

– 5 declared –

BETTING: 11-10 Sursum Corda, 7-2 Heavens Above, 9-2 Cipriani Queen, 6-1 B The One, 8-1 Tudor Falcon

FORM VERDICT

Sursum Corda has lots of ability but seems one to have reservations about these days and B THE ONE is preferred. The selection has run well on all his chase starts and was far from disgraced in a competitive handicap under top weight last time.

5.00 WILDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2f

1 15-501 SEIZE THE DAY (37) (C) M Coombe 11 11 10 ... Miss M Coombe
2 1/46P4 PALOSANTO (12) M Pipe 9 11 5 ... R Greene V
3 F04-25 FORTUNES COURSE (103) (D) J King 10 11 4 ... R Thornton
4 -22640 MOLSUM (28) Mrs P Sly 6 11 3 ... G Tormey
5 P1125- NOW WE KNOW (295) (D) M Sheppard 11 11 3 ... A Thornton
6 4-11P4 DOUBLE STRIKE (40) Mrs P Sly 8 11 2 ... W Marston
7 460032 ROYAL ARCTIC (8) S Mellor 9 10 9 ... C Webb
8 206-05 BELLROI (21) Mrs M Jones 8 10 5 ... D Byrne
9 5206/P CARMEL'S JOY (44) T George 10 10 5 ... R Wakley
10 /2020 AMILLIONMEMORIES (14) Mrs B Waring 9 10 4 ... E Byrne
11 -1515F WHITEBONNET (11) C Jackson 9 10 3 ... Miss S Jackson B

– 11 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Seize The Day, 5-1 Now We Know, 7-1 Palosanto, Fortunes Course, Molsum, Double Strike, 8-1 Royal Arctic, Whitebonnet, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

This trip will take some getting today and there are doubts about several under the conditions. NOW WE KNOW gets the trip well and could be worth chancing despite his absence. Seize The Day and Royal Arctic are well worth consideration.

THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS

Welsh becomes football tongue

ENGLISH FOOTBALL fans may soon be adding Welsh language dictionaries to their bookshelves. S4C, the Welsh television channel, broadcasts more Spanish and German league coverage than any other TV station in Britain and from this week their new digital programmes are available for the first time to the whole of the rest of the UK.

Cockneys and Mancunians should not be too daunted by the language barrier, however. For example, goal in Welsh is "gôl". Even S4C's Monday night highlights programme is called *Sgorio*. Other examples of common usage are admittedly more difficult. "At the end of the day" is "Ar ddiwedd y dydd". "Over the moon" is "Dros y lleuad". "Eat my goal" is "Bwyta fy ngôl". (Watch out of that mutation!).

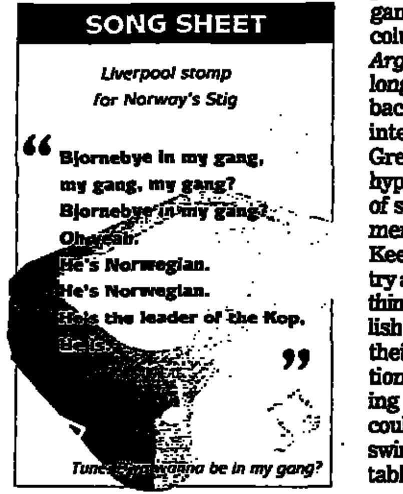
Sgorio starts at 9.30pm each Monday and shows comprehensive highlights, *not just the goals*. The Spanish league provides the main action and S4C hopes that their regular interviewee, John Toshack, will continue his close relationship with the programme now that he has returned to Real Madrid. Cardiff-born Toshack is not a Welsh speaker, however, and his views are broadcast in English. Not so bilinguist John Hartson.

Merseyside viewers discovered an S4C transmission overlap a long time ago and Liverpool fans have used *Sgorio* to bone up on potential opponents in Europe. Digital box owwners can gain a free link-up with S4C, by phoning 0800-389-3396.

THE SWEEPER'S congratulations go to David Beckham, fiancée Victoria and their new son Brooklyn, named after the place that Posh Spice found herself when she realised she was pregnant. For the next time, may we suggest 10 names derived from places Posh might like to visit before doing a pregnancy test.

1 ....Peckham Beckham
2 ....Brecon Beckham
3 ....Beckenham Beckham
4 ....Nancy Beckham
5 ....Six Mile Bottom Beckham
6 ....Basingstoke Beckham
7 ....Bognor Beckham
8...............Pratts Bottom Beckham
9 ....St Etienne Beckham
10............................Tooting Bec'am

FACT OR fiction? Not so long ago Neil Ruddock was reported to be testing a headband which helped him to propel the ball 50 yards, or so it was claimed in a story that was run in a popular newspaper on April Fools' Day. Now, comfortably in advance of the spoofs' day, just such a product, or something very similar, has been unveiled by a marketing agency calling itself Inventorlink. It claims that the band, which is made of textured rubber, silicon and elastic, can "improve friction and thus achieve greater accuracy". It is also said to minimise injuries which may be caused by heading the ball. Coventry City were reported to be testing the band, though when The Sweeper spoke yesterday to one of their coaches, Trevor Peake, he said it was news to him. If they do exist we doubt, after Wednesday night at Old Trafford, whether Dwight Yorke will see the need to order one.



Liverpool stomp for Norway's Stig
"Bjornebye in my gang, my gang, my gang? Bjornebye in my gang? Oh yeah. He's Norwegian. He's Norwegian. He's the leader of the Kop. He is."
Tune: Do you wanna be in my gang?

WHILE THE country at large was temporarily warming to Manchester United on Wednesday night, Black Country folk were braving the freezing weather to celebrate the return of a local hero – Steve Bull. After five months out with a knee injury which seriously threatened his career, the Tipton Terrier made his return for Wolves Reserves in a game against Bolton and 8,266 turned out at Molineux to witness it. The previous home reserve match had drawn a crowd of 759. They even had to open up the Stan Cullis stand to accommodate them all. Wolves' 3-1 defeat was secondary in importance to the fact that Bull came through unscathed and is in line for a first-team return in a fortnight. With their leading striker Robbie Keane off to Nigeria to play in the World Youth Championship, Bull's comeback could not have been better timed.

DON HOWE, the former England coach, does not share the view of his old friend Bobby Robson that it is impossible for Kevin Keegan to do the England job part-time. If anyone can do it Keegan can, said Howe recently in his column in Birmingham's *Sports Argus*. "I have known Kevin for a long time. My first real contact was back in 1982, towards the end of his international career, under Ron Greenwood's reign. He is a totally hyperactive character, not capable of sitting still for one minute. I remember Bobby saying to me when Keegan arrived on the scene: 'Don't try and prevent him from doing anything he wants.' While the other English players might want to go up to their beds and rest before international games, Kevin would be looking around to see what else he could get up to. He would look at the swimming pool, the tennis court, the table tennis table and even the nearest golf course to keep himself going. That was the Keegan I knew. I doubt if he has changed."

THE NO 9 or rather 99 could prove unlucky for Newcastle in tomorrow's FA Cup quarter-final against Everton. The Merseysiders won the Cup in '33 and '66 and so, say soothsayers, it is inevitable that they must win it also in '99. Another omen, say the clairvoyant, is that when Everton last won the Cup in '95, against Manchester United, they survived a hammering en route from Bristol City at Ashton Gate, just as they did this season. Finally, when they won the trophy in 1984 it was the Chinese Year of the Rat, when Kevin "Rats" Ratcliffe was their captain. This is the Chinese Year of the Rabbit when their captain is Don "Hutch" Hutchison, which, of course, could just mean that they will freeze in the sights of Alan Shearer at St James' Park.

AS YOU WERE

BACK IN the halcyon days of English football when Steve Bould (fourth from left, main picture) had hair, the Arsenal boys all sang from the same hymn sheet. Tony Adams – no stranger to a sing-song round the "old Joanna" in the pubs of north London in those days – leads the way in a recording studio in 1989. He has now swapped booze and birds for a quiet night in, reading Keats with Caprice, but here he is "giving it large". His backing vocals are provided by (back row, left to right) Martin Hayes, Gus Caesar, Alan Smith, Lee Dixon, Bould, Nigel Winterburn, Gary Lewin (physio), (front row) Paul Davis, Brian Marwood and David Rocastle. Today's Arsenal squad (right), pictured celebrating their championship last summer, while beautifully in tune on the field of play, must have suffered in the studio since the influx of foreign talent into the Premiership. Eurovision song contests indicate our fellow Europeans are still refusing to ascend that one-in-three gradient that is their learning curve in the contemporary music department, and the end product of a Gooners' Continental blend might be a case for the noise abatement society.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

YET ANOTHER treble (paying £35.21 for £2) up last weekend, and it would have been £174.29 for £8 staked on four trebles if Leicester had scored a thoroughly undeserved equaliser against Leeds at Filbert Street. And Fiorentina nicked another poorly cephalopod (six quid) with their frankly unjust riposte at Salernitana. Uefa Cup tips Marseilles and Parma are in with a shout after a 2-1 win and defeat respectively, while Manchester United and Dynamo Kiev look bound for the semi-finals after beating Internazionale 2-0 and drawing 1-1 with Real Madrid. Cup-Winner's Cup selection Lazio also look nailed on for the last four after hammering hapless hosts Panionos 4-0. We're up for the Cup again this weekend and going for a Trixie (three doubles and a treble). Arsenal should outclass Derby in 90 minutes at Highbury, while First Division Barnsley can hold Premiership Tottenham to a draw at Oakwell, while Manchester United and Chelsea, jaded from Europe, may draw at Old Trafford. Fiorentina, boring without Batistuta, may be held to a draw at home by Parma, who only fielded half their first team in defeat at Bordeaux.

■ **LIBERO WAGERS**
(Three £2 doubles and a £2 treble with Stanley): **Arsenal** to beat Derby (8-15); Barnsley to **draw** with Tottenham (9-4); Man Utd to **draw** with Chelsea (2-1).
■ **SUNDAY C4 ITALIAN JOB**
Fiorentina v Parma
Draw (£2, 2-1, Coral).
ORIGINAL BANK: £100.
CURRENT KITTY: £180.09!
TODAY'S BETS: £10.90 (inc. tax).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Terrie the Terrier.
Club: Huddersfield.
Appearance: A big, round terrier, proud of the fact that he wears proper football boots.
Crime sheet: Mischievous mutt Terrie has been known to drop his shorts on the pitch, a sight that must have thrilled his female fans. With no control over his bladder, he has also been known to cock his leg at the goalposts. The hedonistic hound missed a game against Crewe after a heavy night of partying, has dyed his hair and then cut it off, and frequently annoys photographers at matches by tampering with their equipment after they've set up their cameras and gone in search of tea.
In mitigation, Your Honour: The man inside the mutt is actually a 16-year-old called Daniel Beaumont, who, according to a Huddersfield spokesman, "is experiencing the rush of hormones you'd expect in a teenager." The missed game against Crewe was, said the spokesman, more a case of "girlfriend duty" than excess boozing, and Terrie's other capers are simply good-natured high jinks.
Other information: Terrie loves to paws for the cameras, if not for thought. He sweats and scratches a lot, but his girlfriend (name unknown) loves him.

MY TEAM

CRAIG CHARLES

LIVERPOOL

Comedian, on tour with "Still live on air".
"I used to go to the Melwood training ground and get autographs. I had Kevin Keegan's 15 times. I'd love to have him at Anfield. My first game was Liverpool v Middlesbrough. We won 2-0 and Souness had a big fight with Jimmy Case. The first time I went to the Kop I hit my head on a barrier and got knocked out. The crowd carried me to the front where the Red Cross were. I got a brilliant view. The current side is terrible, no consistency, no spirit. I'm glad McManaman's going if he doesn't want to be at the club. Fowler's my favourite. I think Matteo and Carragher could come good, but Babb's got to go. The 1960s kit with the hooped collar and the big proud Liverbird, was the best."

Interview: Daniel Booth

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Italian football
IF CALCIO is your cup of cappuccino, then the links page below will send you in the direction of the official team pages of Internazionale, Milan, Lazio, Juventus and Parma, amongst many others. There are also links to numerous fans' sites, which vary in quality. Of the official sites, Inter's is not only slick but bilingual, and has up to date news and reports from the other side of the European fence. The Inter site also has the curious but interesting "agenda" page which details the team's planned movements in the near future, including training sessions and rest days. For those non-Italian speakers who want to read the features and profiles, copy the text and feed in to the babelfish translator for some curious, but generally comprehensible results.
http://www.helsinki.fi/~monaco/teamhp.html
http://www.inter.it/
And translations can be provided at:
http://babelfish.altavista.com/cgi-bin/translate?

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

SHAME ON Manchester United. They sell no baby clothes whatsoever. Poor little Brooklyn, no daddy's colours for you. You'll have to wait 18 months to grow into the MUFC infants' kit. And it'll cost him £25.

THEY'RE NOT ALL DENNIS BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 29
VILMOS SEBOK: The 25-year-old Budapest-born defender helped guided his first club, Ujpest Dozsa, to the Hungarian championship, scoring 15 times along the way. Capped 20 times for his country and netting twice, Sebok achieved a lifelong ambition with a dream move to Bristol City in January. Leading by example from the back, he plays his way effortlessly out of defence and occasionally scores vital goals from set-pieces. After captaining Hungary in a recent game against Switzerland, life at Ashton Gate couldn't be sweeter. A tall and majestic player, Sebok occasionally lights up the City attack with spectacular long-range shots. A long standing George Michael fan, according to a Bristol City spokesman, Sebok has brought a touch of East European sophistication to the West Country.

Of hustlers, heroes, hubris and the hard of hearing

CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV

THE MARCH of the docusoaps means that behind-the-scenes documentaries like *Driving Ambition: A Season with Eddie Jordan* (ITV Tuesday) have a lot to live up to.

It's difficult to imagine as canny an operator as Jordan granting unlimited access, for example – and if he did, it did not show. "Some people say I am a bit of a hustler," he said at the beginning. "I do things differently... the fact that I have no idea what I am going to do tomorrow creates a buzz." An example or two of how this alleged crazy guy works would have been nice.

Instead, he comes across as a quiet sort of bloke just about staying afloat in perilous waters. Still, the film did provide a glimpse into the pressure of Formula One. After five races, the Japanese sponsors aren't too happy with the absence of points, Damon Hill hates plodding along in the wake of drivers he was trouncing a few years ago, while his colleague Ralf Schumacher is having one or two problems in the roadholding department.

Journalist Maurice Hamilton wonders whether Jordan is hard enough for this racket: "He's a flibbertigibbet... He's got a 30-second concentration span." It's left to Jordan's mum, though, to highlight the real problem - his ridiculous and unnecessary facial hair. What is it that possesses an otherwise sane man to tease out his whiskers so they stretch out across his cheeks into attenuated dribbles towards his nose? "If you let them grow any more they'll form a moustache round the front," she told him as they sit in her back garden. Even at the golf course they shout: "Tell Eddie to get rid of those things on his face!"

He looks on indulgently, "You're afflicted. God love you".

Mum's over for the Monaco Grand Prix, where it's the same sad story – Schumacher retires, Hill comes fourth from the back. A phrase echoes through the film – "qualifying is going badly" – and at Silverstone, Schumacher stalls and is banished to the back of the grid. Which is inconvenient, as his agent has turned up to talk about next year. As Jordan poses with glamour models in the pre-race festivities, one of his technicians mutters ruefully to camera, "The lads are enjoying the tits, but they're not doing their job."

Come showtime, Hill spins off in the rain, but Schumacher clings on for the team's first point. "Every time you are supposed to do it you fuck it up, and when you're not supposed to do it you do OK," Jordan tells him by way of congratulations.

For someone who has so far failed to set the world alight in his chosen field, Jordan seems to be doing very nicely thank you, as he relaxes in his Spanish villa. He throws a party at which Hill dances like a schoolteacher, while Schumacher fails to show. He's been tapped up by Williams and is investigating ways of breaking his contract.

By the Belgium Grand Prix, things are tense, though Hill makes third on the grid. "Too many people telling me what to do," a techie grumbles bitterly. There's a huge crash at the start, and on the radio we hear Schumacher: "My God. I was really lucky," says the spooked voice of a man who has just stared death in the face.

Hill leads the re-start, Ralph's big brother overtakes but crashes into David Coulthard, and suddenly it's a Jordan 1-2. Hill is quick to sort out one or two things. "Now listen to me, this is very important" he tells ground control. "We're in a position to win this, but not if we race each other. It's up to you."

There's only one decision, but communicating it to Ralph is another matter. Jordan tells him not to overtake, only to be met by silence. "Can you hear me Ralph? Did you get that? Can you hear me?". There was a mental picture of Ralphie smiling that Schumacher smile: "Oh, Gott im Himmel, I've accidentally put my elbow through the radio..."

The message does finally get through, Hill holding on for the team's first win of the season. He does his trademark podium leap while Schumacher attempts to grin rather than grimace. Never mind – he's off to Williams, while for Jordan, "It never stops. Never Stops. Never Stops."

Jordan could have been talking about Murray Walker, who contributes *Murray Walker's Top Ten* (Wednesday) to ITV's somewhat low key F1 preview package. It a fairly uncontroversial selection – in ascending order, Mansell, Ascari, Lauda, Stewart, Schumacher, Clark, Moss, Senna, Prost, Fangio. Prost squeezes ahead of Senna because of the latter's "ruthlessness which could prejudice the safety of others"; Schumacher (that's Michael, by the way) only makes number six because he's not finished yet. As Walker says, "he could be the greatest driver of all time".

Perhaps Schumacher needs to look ahead of him in Walker's list and learn a few things. "I have a good feeling for the limit," he says when asked to explain his success. So did number three and number five.

[illegible]

Chelsea's charisma adds some shine

By Glenn Moore

AS CHELSEA casually sliced Valerenga apart at Stamford Bridge on Thursday night Lazio were doing likewise to Panionios in Athens. Earlier in the day Lokomotiv Moscow had cruised to a 3-0 win against Maccabi Haifa, of Israel. There could be no better argument for Uefa's decision to bring an end to the European Cup-Winners' Cup this May after 39 seasons of sporadic quality and occasional drama.

With Real Mallorca, who drew at Varteks in Croatia, likely to complete the final quartet the semi-finals should produce some decent matches, but it is an awfully late stage for a European competition to actually become competitive.

Though Barcelona, Milan, Manchester United, Bayern Munich, Ajax and Juventus are among the past winners, the Cup-Winners' Cup has never been synonymous with quality. Finalists have included an uncommonly high number of clubs from countries such as Austria, the former East Germany and Belgium, none of whom have made much impact on any of the other European competitions.

The early rounds are even weaker: Chelsea have so far played Helsingborg, Copenhagen and Valerenga. In winning the trophy last year they faced Slovan Bratislava, Tromso, Real Betis, Vicenza and VfB Stuttgart. Only one of these sides, Bratislava in the same competition 30 years ago, have ever reached a European final and only Betis and Stuttgart could be regarded as decent opposition, and neither are of the first rank. It is no coincidence that this is the only trophy won by English clubs (three times) since the post-Heysel ban was lifted. However, Chelsea can only beat what they are faced with and they did that with such ease on Thursday it is inconceivable that they will let slip their three-goal advantage in Oslo in 12 days' time.

Chelsea's attention now turns to Sunday's FA Cup tie against Manchester United at Old Trafford. "The European results mean both sides will be in the right frame of mind," said Gianluca Vialli, who is among four Chelsea players suspended. "United confirmed how strong they were against Inter Milan. They scored with the first two chances they had, so if we want to get a result we will have to be spot on defensively."

Chelsea suffered another unnecessary booking on Thursday when Dan Petrescu was cautioned for showing dissent to a linesman who had signalled a handball against him. Since it was in an innocuous area of the field and Chelsea were two up his reaction was foolish, but Vialli said: "Every match we play, we play for something. Sometimes we get yellow and red cards. It is not ideal but we are human beings, it happens. So far we have been capable of maintaining good performances despite losing players to suspension."

Chelsea could yet win a unique treble, but Vialli remained cautious. "It is difficult, we shall see what happens," he said. Celestine Babayaro, who scored the first goal and made the second against Valerenga, was more bullish: "We want all three, nothing less."

McManaman denies fan rift

By Mark Pierson

REAL MADRID-BOUND midfielder Steve McManaman yesterday played down the criticism he has received from Liverpool fans and said he was looking forward to reviving his career at club and international level. McManaman was in Spain to put the finishing touches to his five-year contract with the Spanish giants, a deal that reportedly will net him £14m in wages and signing-on fees.

The move from Liverpool has triggered criticism from sections of the Anfield crowd, but McManaman denied being singled out for rough treatment from the fans. "The Liverpool fans and public have been fantastic towards me," said McManaman. "Recently, the team hasn't had the right results and that's been frustrating. I don't think I have been singled out for criticism – it's all just been borne out of not getting results."

McManaman, the highest-profile player to move under the Bosman ruling, was wanted by a host of Europe's top clubs and he said he decided on a move to Madrid because of the club's rich history. "They're the European Cup holders and the World Club Cup holders," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, they're the best in the world."

On his international future, McManaman said the challenges of moving to Spain would broaden his horizons in both playing and personal terms. "I'm hopeful this will help me get back in the England squad as soon as possible. I've had to pull out of the last two squads but, hopefully, I'll be back in as soon as possible. Being here will make me a better player. I'll have to adapt to a different style and tactics."

McManaman will be arriving at Madrid at a time of upheaval at the club which has been hit by a series of high-profile disputes amongst the senior players as well as poor form in the Spanish League. Internationals Clarence Seedorf and Fernando Hierro had a showdown following Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Dynamo Kiev in the European Cup and their newly installed coach, John Toshack, has promised to get tough with his stars, starting with a heavy fine for both players.

Harry Redknapp is considering entering West Ham in the InterToto Cup this summer in a bid to appease his foreign signings. The West Ham manager is still hoping his team will qualify automatically for the Uefa Cup by finishing high enough in the Premiership, but if they fail to make it then he will be happy to put his side forward as England's representatives in the competition.

"There are a lot of new players here, and they all want to play in Europe next year. You talk to the likes of Paolo Di Canio and Marc-Vivien Foe who have arrived recently, and that is their aim – it is why they came here," said Redknapp.

Richard Gough has completed his move to Nottingham Forest and joins the Premiership's bottom club for the remaining 11 games of the season. Gough, who had been playing for San Jose Clash, is set to make his debut against Newcastle next Wednesday.

Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka has been named the Premiership's player of the month.

Venables' secret payments, page 1,
Goldberg crisis, page 11

Rush, Dalglish voted best British strike duo

ALAN SHEARER and Michael Owen have voted the Ian Rush-Kenny Dalglish strike force the best Britain has seen. The England forwards made their decision for *Match Of The Day* magazine as part of a poll to establish the most lethal forward duo of all time.

Owen selected two of his Anfield predecessors as Shearer reflected on the skills of his former Newcastle manager. Rush and Dalglish helped win the League and FA Cup Double in 1986, but their most successful season was 1982-83 when they scored 50 goals between them.

"Rush was a class striker; deadly around the box and with a scoring instinct," Owen said.

Shearer said of Dalglish: "He would take the defender out of the game with a pass and put backspin on the ball so it sat up, inviting the shot. Class."

Peter Beardsley and Gary Lineker – who scored 36 goals together as an England partnership – were voted as runners-up, while Kevin Keegan, and John Toshack were third.

The Keegan-Toshack combination was the forerunner to Dalglish and Rush and set the standard at Anfield. In 1975-76, Liverpool won their second Uefa Cup and ninth League title thanks to the strike force which bagged 39 goals between them.

***Match of the Day* greatest British strike partnerships:** **1** Ian Rush and Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool); **2** Peter Beardsley and Gary Lineker (England); **3** Kevin Keegan and John Toshack (Liverpool); **4** Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton (Blackburn best season 1995, 58 goals); **5** Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole (Man Utd 1998-9 43 this season); **6** Jimmy Greaves and Bobby Smith (Tottenham 1963-64, 49); **7** Gary Shaw and Peter Withe (Aston Villa 1980-81, 41); **8** Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley (Newcastle United, 1994-95 41 + 21); **9** Frank McAvennie and Tony Cottee (West Ham, 1985-86, 53); **10** Mark Hateley and Ally McCoist (Rangers 1991-92, 23 + 39); **11** Mick Jones and Allan Clarke (Leeds United 1969-70, 26 + 26); **12** Ray Crawford and Ted Phillips (Ipswich Town 1960-61, 40 + 30); **13** Ray Kennedy and John Radford (Arsenal 1970-71, 25 + 22); **14** Derek Dougan and John Richards (Wolves 1972-73, 15 + 33); **15** Ian Wright and Mark Bright (Crystal Palace 1987-88, 23 + 26).

Liverpool's Steve McManaman meets the Real Madrid president, Lorenzo Sanz, in Spain yesterday AFP

Rioch has history on his side

NATIONWIDE PREVIEW

By Mark Pierson

NORWICH CITY have the unenviable task of a trip to the Stadium of Light today, but at least history is on their side. Bruce Rioch's First Division team have won on their last four visits to Wearside and the Carrow Road manager is relishing the prospect of today's match.

"It is a very big game. There will be over 40,000 people at the Stadium of Light," Rioch said. "It is the sort of place where players have got to be up for the game. The atmosphere will be tremendous. Defensively we have been doing really well recently with three clean sheets in our last four games. But we need to be more incisive in attack."

Sunderland's Niall Quinn will undergo a late fitness test on a calf strain. He is set to replace the injured Daniele Dichio. Norwich should be unchanged.

Bolton seek to end a run of one point from three games at Swindon. Colin Todd's team have suffered two successive defeats and have slipped to fourth in the table. They are unchanged today, while Swindon will be missing Iffy Onuora through suspension. George Ndah is likely to move into the front line and Mark Walters returns on the left side of midfield.

Bradford's £1m signing from Oxford, Dean Windass, is set to make his debut against Port Vale. Gordon Watson (ankle) and Isiah Rankin (knee) are both doubtful. For Vale, Alan Lee, on a month's loan from Aston Villa, is likely to replace Martin Foyle, who has medial ligament damage. Dave Barnett and Allen Tankard return after suspension.

Birmingham, who face Portsmouth, will be without Darren Purse, who is recovering from a hip injury, so Gary Rowett will continue at the heart of the defence. Portsmouth's only change is likely to be the return of Alan McLoughlin after injury.

Ipswich entertain Tranmere without Kieron Dyer, who will be out for at least six weeks with a broken leg. Tranmere have George Santos available after suspension.

The Sheffield United goalkeeper, Alan Kelly, is doubtful for the game against Watford after suffering a groin injury. Simon Tracey stands by. Graham Stuart has a knee injury and is also unlikely to play. The Watford captain, Robert Page, is serving a one-match ban and his place will be taken by Colin Pluck or Darren Ward. Gifton Noel-Williams is still sidelined by a cracked thigh bone.

The Queen's Park Rangers defender Danny Maddix is likely to miss the visit of Wolves after having surgery on a hand injury.

Europe via the village green

FAN'S EYE VIEW

CAERSWS

By John Stagg

"WHAT AM I doing here," said Brian. It was dark, damp and cold on the South Wales coast and we were watching the referee who had dismissed Vinnie Jones days before now presiding over the efforts of an Afan Lido team who had recently got beaten up in a Latvian night-club on their first foray into Europe.

But *we*, I pointed out, were there to support Caersws, founder members and the only village team in the League of Wales (Llansantffraid came later and soon sold their soul to a sponsor with an even longer name than themselves). The Bluebirds' custodian that day, Russell Cadwallader, has long since given way to Matthew Griffiths but my infrequent visits still find a Caersws team with a percentage of locals to make your average Chelsea fan green with envy.

Having first propped my chin on the railings at Aldershot's Recreation Ground next to the railway 48 years ago, I know where my loyalty lies but, with Isthmian League locations failing to satisfy my other passion for mountains, where better to turn than Wales and a team that plays at the Recreation Ground beside the railway.

Following the Shots home and away leaves only rare Caersws titbits like Sunday dashes from the Brecon Beacons to Inter Cable Tel's echoing athletics stadium, treks through the Elan Valley Dams to Friday night games at Aberystwyth or early morning ascents of Pumlumon – source of the Severn that flows past the Bluebirds' ground.

Mid-table respectability has mostly been the L of W lot of a club with a proud regional history. When you hear football scores taking second place to rugby on Radio Wales, you might think pilgrims should be journeying the other way but passion for the game is surely alive and well when a village with a three-figure population can log a four-figure gate for a local derby against Newtown.

Perhaps the departure of the son of manager Mickey Evans to Aston Villa means it will be a while before we follow Newtown into Europe but, with talents like Sean Jehu (able to drop inswinging corners on to a sixpence at the far post), I may soon have to start studying the mountain contours on Latvian maps.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Beckham's a good lad. I thought the crowd would boo me a lot more but there was little noise for me.
Simeone, on Wednesday's tussle at Old Trafford

They won't know what hit them – our changing rooms are crap and so is the pitch.
Ronnie Whelan, manager of Greek side Panionios, looks forward to their Cup-Winners' Cup match with Lazio, who won 4-0.

If he can do a better job here, then he should speak to Ken Bates and try and take over.
Egil Olsen, gets under the skin of Vialli, before their two teams met in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

I would prefer Africa, but I believe there's little doubt it will be Germany.
Pele forecasts England's rivals Germany will host the 2006 World Cup.

If they try to make any sort of backdoor approach I can assure them I will have them by the balls.
Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis on reports that Atletico Madrid are interested in Villa's boss John Gregory.

I thought he wanted an autograph but then he started calling me things I never heard in my life. I demand respect.
Brazilian striker Viola after he chased a supporter out of the training ground and scuffled with him.

WEEKEND POOLS CHECK AND FIXTURES GUIDE

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP
(Sponsored by AXA)
SIXTH ROUND
– Arsenal v Derby
– Barnsley v Tottenham

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Coventry v Charlton
2 Southampton v West Ham
3 Wimbledon v Leicester

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION
4 Birmingham v Portsmouth
5 Bury v Crystal Palace
6 Crewe v Grimsby
7 Ipswich v Tranmere
8 Port Vale v Bradford City
9 QPR v Wolves
10 Sunderland v Norwich
11 Swindon v Bolton
12 West Brom v Oxford Utd
– Huddersfield v Stockport
– Sheffield Utd v Watford

SECOND DIVISION
13 Bristol Rovers v York
14 Fulham v Lincoln City
15 Gillingham v Preston
16 Manchester City v Northampton
17 Millwall v Notts County
18 Oldham v Bournemouth
19 Reading v Macclesfield
20 Walsall v Luton
21 Wigan v Burnley
22 Wrexham v Chesterfield
23 Wycombe v Colchester
– Blackpool v Stoke (12.0)

THIRD DIVISION
24 Carlisle v Shrewsbury
25 Darlington v Brentford
26 Exeter v Cambridge Utd
27 Hull v Mansfield
28 Leyton Orient v Rochdale
29 Peterborough v Hartlepool
30 Rotherham v Barnet
31 Scarborough v Plymouth
32 Scunthorpe v Brighton
33 Southend v Swansea
34 Torquay v Halifax

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP
FOURTH-ROUND REPLAY
– Dundee Utd v Clydebank

FIFTH ROUND
– Motherwell v St Johnstone

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
– Kilmarnock v Dunfermline

SECOND DIVISION
35 Alloa v Partick
36 Arbroath v Inverness CT
37 Clyde v Forfar
38 East Fife v Livingston
39 Queen of South v Stirling

THIRD DIVISION
40 Albion v Montrose
41 Brechin v Cowdenbeath
42 Dumbarton v East Stirling
43 Stenhousemuir v Queen's Park
– Ross County v Berwick

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
44 Barrow v Cheltenham
45 Dover v Forest Green
46 Farnborough v Welling
47 Hayes v Rushden
48 Hereford v Telford
49 Kidderminster v Hednesford
– Kingstonian v Morecambe
– Leek v Yeovil
– Northwich v Kettering
– Southport v Stevenage
– Woking v Doncaster

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Aldershot v Billericay; Basingstoke v Bromley; Bishop's Stortford v Purfleet (*at St Alban's City*); Dulwich v Boreham Wood; Enfield v Harrow Borough; Gravesend v Chesham; Hampton v Sutton Utd; Hendon v St Albans; Slough v Dagenham & Redbridge; Walton & Hersham v Aylesbury. **First Division:** Barton Rovers v Yeading; Bognor Regis Town v Oxford City; Braintree Town v Romford; Canvey Island v Hitchin Town; Chertsey Town v Berkhamsted Town; Croydon v Leyton Pennant; Leatherhead v Uxbridge; Maidenhead Utd v Worthing; Staines Town v Molesey; Wembley v Grays Athletic; Whyteleafe v Wealdstone. **Second Division:** Banstead Athletic v Hemel Hempstead; Bracknell Town v Barking; Edgware Town v Marlow; Harlow Town v Chalfont St Peter; Hertford Town v Horsham; Leighton Town v Hungerford Town; Met Police v Bedford Town; Tooting & Mitcham v Thame Utd; Witham Town v Northwood; Wivenhoe Town v Abingdon Town; Wokingham Town v Windsor & Eton. **Third Division:** Aveley v Egham Town; Camberley Town v Lewes; Cheshunt v Corinthian Casuals; Croydon Athletic v Southall; Dorking v Hornchurch; East Thurrock Utd v Clapton; Flackwell Heath v Ford Utd; Kingsbury Town v Epsom & Ewell; Tring Town v Wingate & Finchley; Ware v Tilbury.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Altrincham v Emley; Bishop Auckland v Worksop; Blyth Spartans v Chorley; Colwyn Bay v Gainsborough; Gateshead v Stalybridge, Guiseley v Frickley; Hyde Utd v Leigh RMI; Marine v Lancaster; Runcorn v Spennymoor; Whitby Town v Bamber Bridge; Winsford Utd v Accrington Stanley. **First Division:** Belper Town v Trafford; Bradford Park Avenue v Ashton Utd; Congleton Town v Netherfield; Droylsden v Burscough, Flixton v Matlock Town; Great Harwood Town v Farsley Celtic; Harrogate Town v Eastwood Town; Hucknall Town v Witton Albion; Lincoln Utd v Whitley Bay; Radcliffe Borough v Alfreton Town: Stocksbridge v Gretna.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Atherstone v Boston Utd; Burton Albion v Tamworth; Cambridge City v Bath City; Crawley Town v Grantham; Halesowen Town v Dorchester; Hastings v Worcester City; King's Lynn v Salisbury; Merthyr Tydfil v Ilkeston; Nuneaton v Bromsgrove; Rothwell Town v Gloucester City. **Midland Division:** Bilston Town v Clevedon Town; Bloxwich Town v Wisbech Town; Hinckley Utd v Racing Club Warwick; Moor Green v Solihull Borough; Newport (Gwent) v Stamford; Paget Rangers v Weston-super-Mare; Redditch Utd v Cinderford Town; Shepshed Dynamo v Blakenall; Stafford Rangers v Bedworth Utd; Stourbridge v VS Rugby. **Southern Division:** Ashford Town v Bashley; Baldock Town v Erith & Belvedere; Brackley Town v Fisher Athletic; Chelmsford City v Folkestone Invicta; Cirencester Town v Sittingbourne; Corby Town v Andover; Dartford v Havant & Waterlooville; Fleet Town v Margate; Tonbridge Angels v Newport (IoW); St Leonards v Raunds Town; Yate Town v Witney Town.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Division: Canterbury City v VCD Athletic; Crockenhill v Beckenham Town; Deal Town v Erith Town; Herne Bay v Chatham Town; Hythe Utd v Lordswood; Sheppey Utd v Ramsgate; Slade Green v Faversham Town; Thamesmead Town v Cray Wanderers, Tunbridge Wells v Whitstable Town.

UHLSPORT United Counties League Premier Division: Buckingham v Kempston; Desborough v Bourne; Eynesbury v Stotfold; Holbeach v Cogenhoe; Long Buckby v Northampton Spencer; Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Wootton; Wellingborough v Potton. **League Cup Third round:** Rothwell Corinthians v Ford Sports.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Broadbridge Heath v Ringmer; Burgess Hill Town v Langney Sports; Eastbourne Town v Wick; Eastbourne Utd v Pagham; Hailsham Town v Saltdean Utd; Horsham YMCA v Whitehawk; Portfield v Redhill; Selsey v Hassocks; Shoreham v East Preston.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Barnstaple Town v Bishop Sutton; Bridgwater Town v Keynsham Town, Bridport v Caine Town; Bristol Manor Farm v Odd Down: Mangotsfield Utd v Bideford; Taunton Town v Brislington; Yeovil Town v Elmore. **Les Phillips Cup quarter-final:** Backwell Utd v Clyst Rovers.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Atherton Collieries v Leek CSOB; Cheadle Town v Clitheroe; Glossop North End v Holker Old Boys; Kidsgrove Athletic v Bootle; Mossley v Atherton LR; Nantwich Town v Skelmersdale Utd: Rossendale Utd v Maine Road; Workington v Ramsbottom Utd. **League Cup Semi-final Second leg:** Newcastle Town v Prescot Cables; Vauxhall GM v St Helens Town

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Brigg Town v Sheffield; Eccleshill Utd v Denaby United; Glasshoughton Welfare v Buxton; Maltby v Thackley; North Ferriby United v Ossett Albion; Ossett Town v Garforth Town; Pickering Town v Armthorpe Welfare; Pontefract v Liversedge; Staveley MW v Selby Town.

INTERLINK EXPRESS Midland Alliance: Boldmere St Michaels v Barwell; Bridgnorth Town v Wednesfield; Pelsall Villa v Shifnal Town; Rocester v Chasetown; Rushall Olympic v Knypersley Victoria; Sandwell Borough v Oldbury Utd; Stapenhill v King's Norton Town; Stratford Town v Pershore Town; West Midlands Police v Halesowen Harriers; Willenhall Town v Stourport Swifts.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Bemerton Heath v East Cowes Vics; Brockenhurst v Bournemouth; Downton v Hamble; Lymington & New Milton v Eastleigh; Moneyfields v Christchurch; Portsmouth RN v Gosport Borough; Thatcham Town v Fareham Town; Whitchurch Utd v BAT Sports.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Fakenham Town v Felixstowe Port & Town; Great Yarmouth Town v Halstead Town; Ipswich Wanderers v Diss Town; Lowestoft Town v Bury Town, Maldon Town v Watton Utd; Newmarket Town v Gorleston; Stowmarket Town v Harwich & Parkeston; Sudbury Town v Histon; Woodbridge Town v Sudbury Wanderers; Wroxham v Ely City.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedlington Terriers v Jarrow Roofing; Billingham Town v Shildon; Consett v Easington; Dunston Federation v Chester Le Street; Guisborough Town v Tow Law Town; Marske Utd v Crook Town; Morpeth Town v West Auckland; Newcastle Blue Star v Penrith; Seaham Red Star v South Shields.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin v Rothes; Deveronvale v Brora Rangers; Huntly v Fraserburgh; Lossiemouth v Cove Rangers; Nairn County v Buckie Thistle; Peterhead v Keith; Wick Academy v Fort William.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ballymena v Coleraine; Cliftonville v Crusaders, Glentoran v Linfield; Newry v Omagh Town; Portadown v Glenavon. **First Division:** Ards v Distillery; Carrick v Larne: Dungannon Swifts v Ballyclare; Limavady Utd v Bangor.

LEAGUE OF WALES (2.30): Barry Town v Bangor City: Caernarfon Town v Cwmbran; Caersws v Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff; Carmarthen Town v Newtown; Connah's Quay v Conwy; Rhayader Town v Afan Lido; Rhyl v Haverfordwest.

HARP LAGER FAI Senior Challenge Cup Quarter-finals: Kilkenny City v Finn Harps (7.30); Sligo Rovers v Bray Wanderers (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP
(Sponsored by Lloyds TSB)
France v Wales (2.0)
(at Stade de France)
Ireland v England (4.0)
(at Lansdowne Road)

INTERNATIONAL MATCH
Scotland v Italy (2.30)
(at Murrayfield)

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Lydney v Nottingham (3.0). **Two North:** Hinckley v Aspatria (3.0). **Two South:** Clifton v Barking (2.30).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

			Home					Away					5-game form	
	Pl	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Most recent on right	Upcoming matches
1 Man Utd	27	54	+33	9	4	1	33	14	6	5	2	28	14	WWWDW	Today Southampton (H); 10 Mar Liverpool (A); 13 Mar Newcastle (A); 21 Mar Everton (H).
2 Chelsea	26	50	+18	8	5	0	19	7	5	6	2	20	14	WLWDW	Today Liverpool (H); 10 Mar Middlesbro (A); 13 Mar West Ham (H); 21 Mar Aston Villa (A).
3 Arsenal	26	49	+22	8	5	0	21	4	5	5	3	13	8	WWWDW	Tomorrow Newcastle (H); 9 Mar Sheff Wed (A); 13 Mar Everton (A); 20 Mar Coventry (H).
4 Aston Villa	26	44	+10	8	2	3	24	17	4	6	3	13	10	WLLLD	Today Coventry (H); 10 Mar Derby (A); 13 Mar Tottenham (A); 21 Mar Chelsea (H).
5 Leeds	26	42	+14	8	3	2	21	6	3	6	4	18	19	WLLWW	Monday Leicester (H); 10 Mar Tottenham (H); 13 Mar Sheff Wed (A); 20 Mar Derby (H).
6 Liverpool	26	39	+17	7	4	2	33	16	4	2	7	16	16	WLWLD	Today Chelsea (A); 10 Mar Man Utd (H); 13 Mar Derby (A); 3 Apr Everton (H).
7 Derby	26	37	+1	5	5	3	13	12	4	5	4	12	12	WWLWL	Today Tottenham (H); 10 Mar Aston Villa (H); 13 Mar Liverpool (H); 20 Mar Leeds (A).
8 West Ham	26	37	-9	7	3	3	18	19	3	4	6	11	19	LDLWD	Today Blackburn (A); 6 Mar Southampton (H); 13 Mar Chelsea (A); 20 Mar Newcastle (H).
9 Wimbledon	25	36	-6	7	5	1	18	11	2	4	6	11	24	WDDLD	Today Everton (H); Wednesday Sheff Wed (H); 6 Mar Leicester (A); 13 Mar Nottm Forest (H).
10 Newcastle	26	34	-1	7	2	4	20	16	2	5	6	14	19	DWWWL	Tomorrow Arsenal (A); 10 Mar Nottm Forest (A); 13 Mar Man Utd (H); 20 Mar West Ham (A).
11 Middlesbro	26	33	-3	4	8	1	16	10	3	4	6	17	26	LDLLD	Today Sheff Wed (A); 10 Mar Chelsea (H); 14 Mar Southampton (H); 20 Mar Nottm Forest (A).
12 Sheff Wed	25	32	+7	5	3	4	13	7	4	2	7	18	17	DWLWW	Today Middlesbro (H); Wednesday Wimbledon (A); 9 Mar Arsenal (A); 13 Mar Leeds (H).
13 Tottenham	25	32	-2	5	5	2	19	16	2	6	5	10	15	DDDDD	Today Derby (A); Tuesday Southampton (H); 10 Mar Leeds (A); 13 Mar Aston Villa (H).
14 Leicester	25	30	-9	5	3	4	17	18	2	6	5	8	16	DLDLL	Monday Leeds (A); 6 Mar Wimbledon (H); 13 Mar Charlton (H); 3 Apr Tottenham (A).
15 Everton	26	27	-9	3	7	3	8	6	3	2	8	11	22	LLLWL	Today Wimbledon (A); 10 Mar Blackburn (H); 13 Mar Arsenal (H); 21 Mar Man Utd (A).
16 Charlton	26	26	-6	4	4	5	18	13	2	4	7	13	24	DLWWW	Today Nottm Forest (H); 6 Mar Coventry (H); 13 Mar Leicester (A); 3 Apr Chelsea (H).
17 Blackburn	26	26	-9	5	3	5	15	16	1	5	7	12	20	LDWDL	Today West Ham (H); 10 Mar Everton (A); 13 Mar Coventry (H); 20 Mar Wimbledon (A).
18 Coventry	26	24	-13	5	4	4	17	14	1	2	10	7	23	LWDLL	Today Aston Villa (A); 6 Mar Charlton (H); 13 Mar Blackburn (A); 20 Mar Arsenal (A).
19 Southampton	25	23	-23	5	2	6	20	22	1	3	8	5	26	WLWLW	Today Man Utd (A); Tuesday Tottenham (A); 6 Mar West Ham (H); 14 Mar Middlesbro (A).
20 Nottm Forest	26	16	-32	1	6	6	11	24	2	1	10	11	30	LWLLL	Today Charlton (A); 10 Mar Newcastle (H); 13 Mar Wimbledon (A); 20 Mar Middlesbro (H).

HOCKEY

EHL First Division: Oxford Univ v Isca (1 0).

SOUTH Premier: Blackheath v Winchester; Chichester v Richmond; High Wycombe v Beckenham; Old Cranleighans v Maidenhead; Old Whitgiftians v Herne Bay; Purley v Anchorians; Tunbridge Wells v Bournemouth; Wimbledon v City of Portsmouth; Woking v Fareham; Wokingham v Gore Court.

DTZ MIDLANDS Premier: Coventry & North Warwick v Edgbaston; Harborne v Shrewsbury; Leek v Khalsa; North Notts v Hampton-in-Arden; North Stafford v Nottingham; Northampton Saints v Olton & West Warwick

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST Premier: Blueharts v Bishop's Stortford; Cambridge City v Bedford Town; Cambridge Univ v Crostyx; Clacton v Ipswich; West Herts v Colchester.

NORTH Premier: Ben Rhydding v Warrington; Durham Univ v Rotherham; Formby v Bowdon; Harrogate v Norton; Neston v Southport; Sheffield Bankers v Chester.

WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES Premier: Gloucester City v Robinsons; Swansea v Whitchurch; Taunton Vale v Yeovil & Sherborne; West Wilts v Bath Buccaneers; Weston-super-Mare v Cheltenham

EHL WOMEN'S Premier (12.0): Clifton Scottish Life v Fyffes Leicester; Doncaster v Olton Terraquest; Hightown v Ipswich; Sutton Coldfield v Slough. **First Division:** Chelmsford Highway v Trojans; Loughborough Students v Bradford; Sunderland Ashbrooke v Aldridge; Wimbledon v Canterbury. **Second Division:** Hampton-in-Arden v Old Loughtonians; Sherwood v Bracknell; St Albans v Ealing; Woking v Poynton.

WOMEN'S MIDLAND Premier: Bedford v Belper; Luton v Crimson Ramblers; North Staffs v Kettering; Olton Terraquest v Loughborough Students.

WOMEN'S NORTH First Division: Blackburn v Don Valley; Chester v Leyland Motors; Liverpool v Deeside Ramblers; Sheffield v Winnington Park.

WOMEN'S EAST Premier: Ashford v Blueharts; Bury St Edmunds v Dereham; Cambridge City v Harleston Magpies; Sevenoaks v Letchworth

WOMEN'S WEST Premier: Bournemouth v Leominster; Exeter v St Austell; Exmouth v Cheltenham; Portishead Firebrands v Colwall, Taunton Vale v Redland

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Dulwich v Horsham; Maidenhead v Reading; Rover Cowley v Tulse Hill, West Witney v Hendon, Winchester v City of Portsmouth

TRYSPORTS WOMEN'S THREE COUNTIES First Division: Bracknell v Farnham Common, Henley v Windsor; Oxford Univ v Reading; Phoenix-Ranelagh v Oxford Hawks; Rover Cowley v Newbury; Sonning v Milton Keynes, West Witney v Wokingham, Wycombe Rye v City of Oxford

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: adidas Greater London Leopards v Westfield Sharks Sheffield (7.0); Renault Leicester Riders v Chester Jets (7.30); Exide London Towers v Derby Storm (7.30); Manchester Giants v Newcastle Eagles (7.10); Thames Valley Tigers v Milton Keynes Lions (8.0); ITT L&E Worthing Bears v Peugeot Bullets Birmingham (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0).

BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE Play-offs: Group A: Fife Flyers v Peterborough Pirates (7 0); Slough Jets v Edinburgh Capitals (6.30) **Group B:** Guildford Flames v Kingston Hawks (5 0); Telford Tigers v Basingstoke Bison (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS

BOXING: Professional Promotion: H Eastman (Battersea) v J Penn (Yorkshire) (*at Elephant & Castle, London*).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CUP
(Sponsored by AXA)
SIXTH ROUND
Man Utd v Chelsea (2.0)
Newcastle v Everton (4.0)

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP
FIFTH ROUND
Rangers v Falkirk (3.10)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Weymouth v Gresley Rovers (2.0).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Barnstaple Town v Paulton Rovers (3 0)

HARP LAGER FAI SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP Quarter-finals: Derry City v Shelbourne (4.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

3.0 unless stated

JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE
Bradford v Sheffield
Castleford v Wakefield (3.30)
Gateshead v Leeds (6.35)
Halifax v Warrington
London v Huddersfield (3.30)
Salford v St Helens

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Barrow v Featherstone Batley v Hunslet Hull K R v Oldham Keighley v York Lancashire Lynx v Dewsbury Leigh v Whitehaven Swinton v Bramley Widnes v Rochdale Workington v Doncaster

RUGBY UNION

3.0 unless stated

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP
QUARTER FINALS
Newcastle v Bath (2.0)
Waterloo v Gloucester (2 30)

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Rumney v South Wales Police (2.30).

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP Quarter-finals: Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP.

TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD Quarter-finals: Gordonians v Hawick Linden

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP First Division: Currie v Jed-Forest: Stirling County v Hawick. **Second Division:** Dundee HSFP v Kirkcaldy; Kilmarnock v Selkirk. **Third Division:** Stewarts Mel FP v Ayr.

HOCKEY

EHL Premier: Beeston v Old Loughtonians (2 0), East Grinstead v Bournville (2 0); Guildford v Teddington (12 0), Hounslow v Brooklands (2.0); Reading v Canterbury (2.0); Southgate v Cannock (2.0) **First Division:** Barford Tigers v Hampstead & Westminster (2 0), Bromley v Loughborough Students (1 0), Firebrands v Doncaster (1 0); Harleston Magpies v Sheffield (2 0); Hull v Surbiton (1.30), Indian Gymkhana v Eastcote (2 0), Lewes v Chelmsford (1 30); Oxford Hawks v Havant (2 0): Stourport v St Albans (2 0)

EHL WOMEN'S Premier: Slough v Clifton Scottish Life (11.45).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Peugeot Bullets Birmingham v Exide London Towers (6.0); Edinburgh Rocks v adidas Greater London Leopards (5 0).

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0), London Knights v Newcastle Riverkings (6 0). **Challenge Cup semi-finals:** Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (2 0). Nottingham Panthers v Cardiff Devils (2.0).

BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE Play-offs: Group A: Edinburgh Capitals v Fife Flyers (6.30), Peterborough Pirates v Slough Jets (6 15). **Group B:** Basingstoke Bison v Telford Tigers (5.30), Kingston Hawks v Guildford Flames (5 30)

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS

Dean Windass Oxford Utd to Bradford City; **Mark Stallard** Wycombe to Notts County; **Matthew Wicks** Crewe to Peterborough; **Jamie Day** Arsenal to Bournemouth; **Paul Evans** Shrewsbury to Brentford; **Daniel Hughes** Wolves to Brentford; **Gary Himsworth** York to Darlington; **Daniel Rodrigues** Desportive Feirense (Por) to Southampton; **William Spence** Arbroath to Hearts; **Mark Campbell** Stranraer to Ayr; **Paul Kinnaird** Stranraer to Ross County; **Steven Boyack** Rangers to Dundee; **Jason Dair** Raith to Dunfermline, **James Dolan** Dundee Utd to Dunfermline; **Scott McCulloch** Dunfermline to Dundee Utd.

LOANS/TRIALS

Richard Gough San Jose Clash (US) to Nottingham Forest; **Steve Forbes** Colchester to Peterborough; **Andy Collett** Bristol Rovers to Rusden & Diamonds; **Alan Lee** Aston Villa to Port Vale; **Marc Bridge-Wilkinson** Derby to Carlisle; **Anthony Williams** Blackburn to Huddersfield; **Gareth Armstrong** Ayr to Alloa; **Paul Blair** Greenock Morton to Albion; **Steven Boyle** Dunfermline to Brechin; **John Bradford** Ayr to Dumbarton; **Barry Elliot** Celtic to Clydebank; **Brian Grant** Dundee to Stirling Albion; **Lloyd Haddow** Alloa to Berwick; **Russell Huggon** Hibernian to Stenhousemuir; **Colin Meldrum** Kilmarnock to Ross County; **Jerry O'Driscoll** Dundee to Montrose; **Martin O'Neill** Kilmarnock to Stranraer; **David Stewart** Ayr to Dumbarton; **Paul Tosh** Hibernian to Exeter.

FA Cup quarter-finals: Derby manager still dreams of the ultimate prize despite a series of unfortunate setbacks

Smith awaits lucky silver streak

BY PHIL SHAW

AS THE only Englishman left in charge of any of the quarter-finalists, and one of the game's last great character managers, Jim Smith would be a popular choice to lift the FA Cup for the first time in a football career now into its fifth decade. Besides, the old competition owes him one.

It is one of those "not-a-lot-of-people-know-that" facts that Smith was born, 58 years ago, three days after Cliff Richard. But while the Peter Pan of pro-celebrity tennis finally got to play centre court at Wimbledon, albeit to serenade the crowd during a deluge, Derby County's affable, estimable manager has never taken centre stage at Wembley in the FA Cup final.

"You'd have to be a cold fish not to imagine yourself lifting the Cup," Smith chuckles in a deep, sandpaper South Yorkshire voice that makes Brian Blessed sound like a castrato. "You think about it when you're driving to watch a night match at Peterborough or somewhere. Football's a dream factory, and that's one of mine."

His affection for the world's first and finest knockout tourney has been conspicuously unrequited down the years. To reach this season's last four, for example, Derby must come through a fourth consecutive away draw, today's visit to the holders, Arsenal.

Highbury, the setting for the first half of a semi-final saga in 1992 which ended unluckily for Smith at Villa Park, looms large among his Cup memories. Yet they also include tales of long-ago games at god-forsaken grounds and of sepia-tinted ties in a bygone age.

His earliest recollection of the Wembley trail is of squeezing into Hillsborough's now-infamous Leppings Lane end in 1953, where small boys were passed over heads to the front. With 60,000 others he saw Blackpool, complete with Stanley Matthews, take their first step towards winning the trophy. Disappointed as he was, the 12-year-old Sheffield Wednesday supporter was smitten.

Smith developed into a midfielder good enough to be considered for England Under-18s. His trial match, at Corby, was snowed off after 25 minutes, and when it was restaged the selectors gave his place to one Norbert Stiles.

Talking of whom, mention 1966 to Smith and he thinks not of the toothless, dancing Nobby or the Russian linesmen but of Wednesday's run to the FA Cup final. He cheered them to victory over Chelsea in the semi-final at Villa Park, and drove a brash Huddersfield apprentice named Frank Worthington to Wembley, where the Owls somehow lost to Everton after leading 2-0.

His own Cup debut had come four years earlier, after he joined Aldershot from Sheffield United on a free transfer, and ended in defeat at Port Vale. The following year, however, he helped the Fourth Division side knock out Aston Villa, from the top flight. "For several years running, the club who beat Villa had gone on to win it, so we were thinking it might be us," Smith says. "Then we lost at Swindon."

After joining Halifax, he was in the team which scraped a draw on a tricky surface at Bishop Auckland. Smith heard the amateurs' manager remark: "It'll be great at their place because it's a good pitch and we'll beat them." The speaker was Lawrie McMenemy, and it is as well that his reaction to a 7-0 replay defeat is lost in the mists of time.

Switching to Lincoln, where Derby's new coach Ray Harford was a colleague, Smith was in the side drawn away to Birmingham. The manager, Ron Gray, took them to Blackpool for five days before the match. Smith remembers an old Southampton player telling him how they had stayed in the resort prior to a tie at Manchester City, got drunk every night and won 5-1. Lincoln's stay contained only some of the same features.

"We went to the pictures first night and a few of the lads were 15 minutes late getting back. The gaffer went mad. He called a meeting and said: 'Right, we're going home.' We talked him out of it but the next night was New Year's Eve. He told us: 'You can't have a drink but we'll all have a glass of champagne at midnight.'

"We saw these people in dicky-bows arriving at the hotel and we thought: 'Bugger this.' We went to my room and got stuck into some sherry. At 12 o'clock, there were five of us, arms linked, singing 'Auld Lang Syne'!" Lincoln lost 2-1.

> *'We hit the sherry. At 12 o'clock, there were five of us, arms linked, singing 'Auld Lang Syne'!'*

Taking his first managerial post in 1968, with Boston United of the Northern Premier League, he continued to play, as well as acting as secretary and commercial manager. The night before one tie, against Portsmouth, found him putting stickers on the stand seats, though an earlier round is burned more strongly into his memory.

Boston travelled to Ellesmere Port on Merseyside. One of the home side, "a right hard bastard" who had best remain nameless, repeatedly threatened their players. "It was a very exposed ground and the coldest, most Arctic weather I ever played in. We went one up but they had the wind behind them in the second half.

"The game was going on at one end and we looked round to see this head-case standing over one of our forwards. He'd nutted him. After he was sent off, they kept on to the referee to abandon the match. Afterwards the ref came into our bath and I asked him: 'Why didn't you stop it, then?' He looked at me and said: 'I ain't fucking coming back here!'"

Smith's break in League management came with Colchester. In 1974-75, having hung up his boots, he led them to the last eight of the League Cup, but even then success in the FA version proved more elusive. "We were drawn away to Leatherhead or Bishop's Stortford so I went to their replay. It was a terrible game and I said to our coach, Bobby Roberts, who's my chief scout at Derby: 'I daren't tell the lads how bad Leatherhead are – they may get complacent.' We lost 1-0."

Wherever he went – and his hybrid of old-school geniality and progressive ideas about tactics and players took him to Blackburn, Birmingham, Oxford, Queen's Park Rangers and Newcastle – it was the same Cup of woes. Three times he went out in the fifth round, while Newcastle once played four games, as many as it takes some teams to qualify for the semi-finals, yet still lost to Watford in the third round.

The one time he did reach Wembley, with QPR in the 1986 League Cup final, they were thrashed 3-0 by the Oxford side he had built and left. "The whole day was weird for me. We were lined up in the tunnel and I realised I knew their players better than my own."

> *'We were lined up in the tunnel and I realised I knew their players better than I knew my own'*

His FA Cup fortunes seemed set to change at Portsmouth, whom he took to Bournemouth before each round (Derby have spent the past two days at bracing Bisham Abbey). In the semi-final, Pompey led Liverpool through Darren Anderton's goal until Ronnie Whelan equalised deep in extra time. The replay was goalless when, in the 87th minute, glory again beckoned Smith.

"John Beresford got to the byline and pulled the ball back. The keeper had gone to his near post, so the goal was gaping, and if we had one player you'd have backed to score it was Alan McLoughlin. But he caught it too hard and hit the bar. Liverpool could hardly lift their legs but that helped them get through the extra half hour."

Portsmouth lost the penalty shoot-out – an outcome Smith felt trivialised the competition – and became the first team ever to go out of the Cup without losing. "I've always regarded myself as a bit unlucky with that one," he says with wistful understatement. When Derby lost to Middlesbrough in the sixth round two years ago, he could have been forgiven for believing the FA Cup gods bore him a grudge.

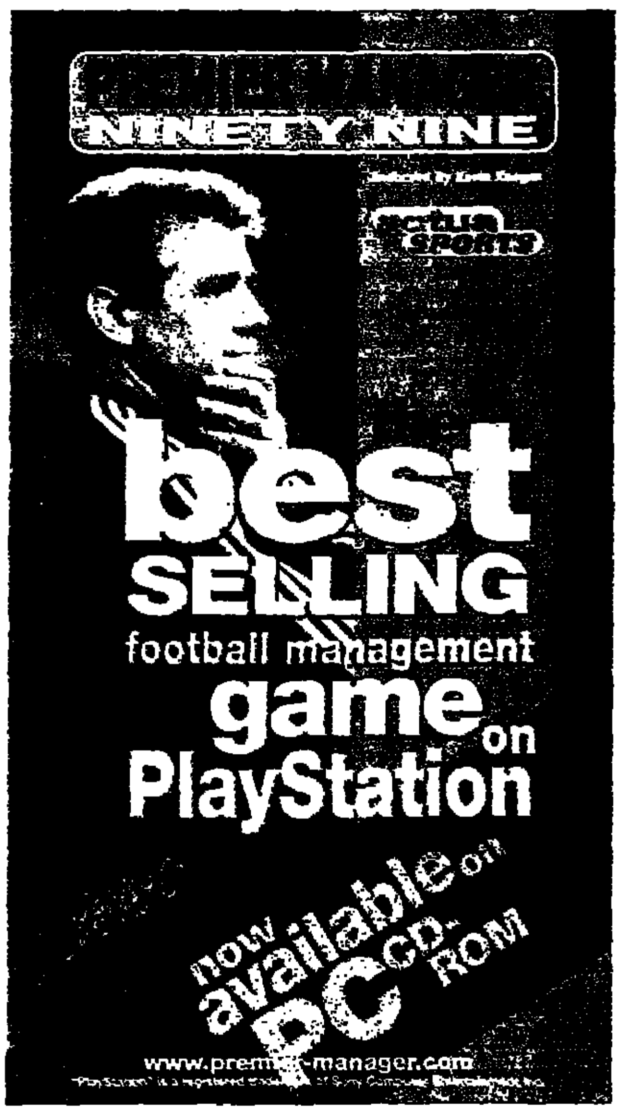
But maybe, applying the perverse logic of the competition, Smith's luck is about to be turned on its head. For in the League Cup, always kinder to him, Arsenal beat Derby at Pride Park with a shadow XI. "The beauty of the FA Cup," he argues, "is that you don't bring any baggage into a tie."

Smith admires Arsène Wenger's coaching flair (while wondering how the Frenchman, Gianluca Vialli and Ruud Gullit would fare without resources at, say, Halifax or Oxford). He sees Nicolas Anelka and Dennis Bergkamp as "very special talents", and got as far as speaking to Emmanuel Petit on his mobile when he became available at Monaco.

"If we were going to Highbury in the Premiership, we'd probably set out to be pretty defensive and try to hit them on the break. The Cup is like a one-off, with the fallback of a replay, and the mentality is to go for it. Try to win."

Three wins, and Wembley would be truly, madly Derby's. Cliff Richard ended up with a knighthood. Jim Smith will settle for the celebrated silver pot.

The many faces of the Derby manager Jim Smith – the last English manager left in the Cup and one of the few character-managers still in the game David Ashdown



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Battle of familiarity at Old Trafford

BY STEVE TONGUE

GIVEN THE amount of spying, scouting and video-studying that goes on in modern football, there is little excuse for any team to be caught unawares by the opposition, even in Cup ties. All the less so this weekend, when three of the four FA Cup quarter-finals are a repeat of matches in last season's competition, while Arsenal and Derby have already met in the Worthington Cup and the Premiership.

The familiarity between Manchester United and Chelsea, preparing to collide at Old Trafford tomorrow, will be greatest of all. Last season there were four meetings, including the Charity Shield and an FA Cup third-round match at Stamford Bridge, in which Chelsea suffered the unusual fate of scoring three goals, each nothing more than a consolation – United, irrepressible in attack, already had five in the locker. An unusual double-header either side of Christmas brought them together twice in quick succession this season; Alex Ferguson conceded that Chelsea were the better side in the 1-1 draw in Manchester, but his team deserved their point in an anti-climactic and goalless return game.

That has been the way of many recent encounters between the two, with the home team often struggling to break down the visitors and getting caught out. If the pattern is changed tomorrow, it may be in part because the London club are suffering for greater sins over the past few weeks, leading to suspensions for important players in every area of the pitch – Franck Leboeuf, Dennis Wise, Celestine Babayaro and Gianluca Vialli. The absence of United's Jaap Stam looks less serious in comparison.

"We go there with confidence," Vialli insisted, after his team had followed United's dramatic Inter-mezzo on Wednesday with a more languid waltz through the Norwegian Wood in the Cup-Winners' Cup; the following night, because the second legs of the respective European ties take place the week after next, the Met Police (keen on anything that improves their popularity at present?) have agreed that a replay of tomorrow's game would be on Wednesday.

Should the Old Trafford match live up to expectations, the second half of tomorrow's double bill, between Newcastle and Everton, will do well to come close to it in terms of entertainment. All that remains in the memory of last season's televised third-round tie between the two at Goodison is that the only goal was scored for Newcastle by a certain Ian Rush. If he does not notch one soon for Wrexham, it could even go down as the last of his famous career.

Newcastle, of course, went on from that game all the way to Wembley. Comfortable in mid-table, they can afford to be single-minded about the Cup again; Everton will be uncomfortably aware that any benefit to their confidence from an extended run in the competition might come at the expense of injuries, suspensions or points, weakening an already anaemic Premiership campaign.

If Chelsea's visit to Manchester is the match of the round, Tottenham's trek to Barnsley is the most authentic FA Cup tie, one rendered even tastier by the home team's 3-1 success against them in the fourth round last season, prior to devouring Manchester United as well.

A repeat would, nevertheless, be even more startling. While Barnsley have slipped back to something nearer their natural station in life over the past year, particularly short of goals and even players, this is the Tottenham of Mr Graham, not Herr Gross. An unbeaten run of 16 games is the club's best since an identical time of year in 1981-2, when, for those who like omens, they reached the final of both domestic cups.

No sorrows have had to be drowned anywhere in north London since well before Christmas, as Arsenal are also on a long run without defeat (13 or 14 games, according to whether Sheffield United counts as one match or two). Today the Cup holders have home advantage against Derby, having beaten them at Pride Park in the Worthington Cup with a deliberately weakened side, and drawn there in the Premiership. The absence of Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit, the team's French fulcrum, gives greatest hope to Derby, who were solid enough in defence but ineffectual for their forward at Spurs last week.

In the Premiership, the fact that Coventry play Charlton means Everton will slip one step further into trouble, whatever the result. For Coventry it is the first of five winnable home games that could ensure their survival for yet another year, though Charlton, after three wins and a draw, also approach it in good heart.

Like Everton, Southampton would probably prefer a draw at Highfield Road, accompanied, in their case, by a home win over West Ham, to bring them level with Blackburn.

Leicester, without a win in seven Premiership games, will not sleep well either unless they take home at least a point from Wimbledon.

Bates vents anger over 'disgusting' Fowler

CHELSEA'S CHAIRMAN, Ken Bates, has widened his attack on Liverpool in the war of words following Graeme Le Saux's clash with Robbie Fowler.

He has now criticised Michael Owen and David James, while describing Fowler's actions as a "sad commentary for the decline of a once-great team".

Bates had already attacked Fowler for allegedly baiting Le Saux with sexual comments which provoked the Chelsea full-back to elbow him in the head.

Now Bates has gone further in condemning "pretty unpleasant behaviour both on and off the pitch" by Liverpool players at Stamford Bridge last weekend.

He wrote in Thursday night's programme before Chelsea's Cup-Winners' Cup win over Valerenga: "Owen may be angel-faced but angel he isn't. James' childish behaviour was unnecessary, but Fowler's behaviour was quite frankly disgusting."

After reviewing video replays of the Liverpool game, the Football Association charged both Le Saux and Fowler with misconduct, but Bates feels that the use of television evidence is "too hit and miss".

"I have said for nearly five years to the FA and I will say it again – we have a choice, either ignore all TV evidence, and if the referee doesn't see it, then that is the end of the matter.

"Alternatively, all videos of all matches should be viewed by a panel of respected senior retired referees on Sunday to Monday, with decisions being made by the same panel; there will at least be consistency in decisions."

هكذا من الاصل

Guide to the FA Cup and Premiership

MATCH OF THE WEEKEND: FA CUP QUARTER-FINAL (TOMORROW, 2PM)

Manchester Utd v Chelsea

By Wyn Griffiths

SUSPENSION AND INJURY force Manchester United into changes for tomorrow's FA Cup showdown with Chelsea as the Premiership's top two teams fight to keep their chance of a treble alive. Teenager Wes Brown takes over from Jaap Stam as the Dutch defender serves a one-match ban, and Alex Ferguson has ruled out Ronny Johnsen who picked up a groin strain during Wednesday's rousing victory over Internazionale in the European Cup quarter-final first leg.

With Ryan Giggs seeing a specialist yesterday after breaking his nose during that win and David Beckham taking a day off following the birth of his son on Thursday night, United will not be able to try out Sunday's starting line-up until today's training session.

Ferguson seems certain to play reserve central defender Brown alongside Henning Berg, with Gary Neville remaining at right-back. Brown has played in 17 first-team games this season after stepping into the senior squad last year but has normally played at right-back.

Ferguson's Chelsea counterpart, Gianluca Vialli, has predicted that Marcel Desailly will be the rock on which United's strikeforce will founder. Chelsea have four players banned for the tie – the third meeting between the two sides this season after two Premiership draws in December. Vialli himself, Dennis Wise, centre-back Frank Leboeuf and midfielder Céléstine Babayaro are the suspended quartet as Chelsea pay the accumulated price of indiscipline.

Back in the autumn, it was almost impossible to move for criticism of Chelsea's hefty squad – too many players and too much rotation, pronounced the doubters. However, if proof were needed of Vialli's foresight and wisdom in assembling such an impressively large pool of players at the club, the confrontation with United provides it. For into the side are likely to come Bernard Lambourde, Jody Morris and Bjarne Goldbaek, all with significant Premiership and European experience behind them.

Above all though, Vialli can rest assured that in Desailly, he has a truly world-class central defender who has finally shaken off his post-World Cup lethargy. "Like Peter Schmeichel and many other players, he needed time to recover fully from the World Cup but there's no doubt that he's done that now and he's playing out of his skin," cooed Vialli.

Tore Andre Flo will partner Gianfranco Zola up front, while Bernard Lambourde is expected to retain his place in central defence and Jody Morris and Bjarne Goldbaek should step into starting roles in midfield.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichel, G Neville, Berg, Brown, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Cole, Yorke, Solskjaer, P Neville, Butt, Blomqvist, Curtis, van der Gouw

CHELSEA (from). De Goey, Hitchcock, Ferrer, Le Saux, Terry, Desailly, Lambourde, Myers, Petrescu, Goldbaek, Morris, Di Matteo, Newton, Nicholls, Flo, Zola, Forssell.

Suspensions: Chelsea: Vialli, Wise, Leboeuf, Babayaro

Referee: P Durkin (Portland, Dorset)

TODAY'S QUARTER-FINALS

Arsenal v Derby

HOLDERS ARSENAL are without all three of their French midfield trio. Emmanuel Petit and Remi Garde both have ankle injuries while Patrick Vieira must serve a one-match ban. Manager Arsène Wenger will chose between Nelson Vivas, Fredrik Ljungberg and new signing Nwankwo Kanu as he reshuffles his forces. Stephen Hughes looks a certain starter and could have one of the crucial central midfield roles alongside Ray Parlour, whom Wenger is thinking of switching from the wing.

Petit, who has been bothered by a long-standing ankle injury, is out for at least two more weeks. Veteran defender Steve Bould also has been ankle trouble although he may be available for Tuesday's home Premiership game with Sheffield Wednesday when Vieira will also return.

For Dèrby, defenders Tony Dorigo and Horacio Carbonari face late fitness checks. Dorigo is nursing a damaged hamstring and Carbonari has a groin problem, while Lars Bohinen could also miss out because his wife is expecting a baby. However, Igor Stimac is back after suspension and midfielder Darryl Powell has recovered from a neck injury.

ARSENAL (from): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Parlour, Hughes, Vivas, Overmars, Bergkamp, Anelka, Kanu, Diawara, Grimandi, Upson, Manninger (gk).

DERBY (from): Hoult, Prior, Stimac, Laursen, Carbonari, Eranio, Carsley, Bohinen, Dorigo, Schnoor, Baiano, Burton, Wanchope, Powell, Sturridge, Poom, Kozluk, Harper, Hunt.

Suspensions: Derby Hanson.

Referee: S Dunn (Bristol).

Barnsley v Tottenham

BARNSLEY'S PLAYER-MANAGER John Hendrie has doubts over midfielder Sean McClare and defender Adie Moses. McClare is suffering from a foot injury, while Moses cut his head and had eight stitches inserted during the 1-0 defeat by Crystal Palace last Sunday.

Two players certain to miss out are Darren Sheridan, who suffered a broken jaw at Selhurst Park, while Matt Appleby tore groin ligaments on a bleak afternoon for the Tykes.

For Tottenham, Darren Anderton returns being rested from the midweek Premiership win over Southampton, and defenders Ramon Vega and Justin Edinburgh may also earn recalls. Manager George Graham admits, however, it is a tough choice between Chris Armstrong, Steffen Iversen and Les Ferdinand for the two positions up front. Ferdinand has missed the last two games, recovering from head injuries.

Spurs are unbeaten in their last 16 games and will start as favourites against the only non-Premiership survivors. Anderton's return to midfield is likely to be at the expense of Allan Nielsen, while Graham may opt for Vega's extra experience to replace 20-year-old Luke Young in central defence.

BARNSLEY (from): T Bullock, Leese, Eaden, Blackmore, Jones, Moses, Morgan, de Zeeuw, Richardson, von der Laan, Tinkler, McClare, Hignett, M Bullock, Rose, Dyer, Goodman, Sheron, Hendrie.

TOTTENHAM (from): Walker, Carr, Vega, Campbell, Edinburgh, Anderton, Freund, Sherwood, Ginola, Iversen, Armstrong, Ferdinand, Young, Calderwood, Nielsen, Dominguez, Taricco, Fox, Sinton, Baardsen.

Suspensions: None.

Referee: M Reed (Birmingham).

TOMORROW (4PM)

Newcastle v Everton

RUUD GULLIT is searching for a measure of relief from the rumour and innuendo he says is affecting his life on football-mad Tyneside. The manager has found himself in the tabloid headlines on more than one occasion since arriving in Newcastle and was upset by revelations made by his former wife. "It's like when I lived in Italy for eight years," he said. "Now all, of a sudden, a whole lot of things come out now that I'm back in football again, and it's not nice. But for me, the most important thing is the smiles on the players' faces."

United meet Everton on something of a high after fighting back to secure a point against Arsenal last Sunday. With Gary Speed suspended, Maric and club skipper Rob Lee will battle it out for a place in the starting 11. The England midfielder is favourite to partner Dietmar Hamann.

Walter Smith has to reshuffle his side after losing Olivier Dacourt and Michael Ball and Richard Dunne through suspension. But young midfielder Tony Grant is available after a hamstring problem, the influential Don Hutchison is back after a one-match ban, as is Ibrahima Bakayoko, from international duty.

NEWCASTLE (from): Given, Harper, Charvet, Dorix, Barton, Howey, Dabizas, Hamann, Solano, Lee, Brady, Maric, Ketsbaia, Shearer, Saha, Andersson, Hughes, Georgiadis, Griffin.

EVERTON (from). Myhre, Weir, Watson, Unsworth, Materazzi, Short, Barmby, Hutchison, Grant, Oster, O'Kane, Branch, Cadamarteri, Bakayoko, Jeffers, Jevons, Simonsen, Milligan.

Suspensions: Newcastle: Speed; **Everton:** Dacourt, Ball, Dunne.

Referee: G Barber (Pryford, Surrey).

...And statistics

Who's for the drop?

Can Forest's Pierre Van Hooijdonk do miracles to keep Nottingham Forest up or is the game already over?

WHILE THE FA Cup occupies the Premiership's big guns this weekend, three of the sides struggling at the other end of the table – Coventry, Charlton and Southampton – will all be hoping to pick up League points to keep alive their hopes of staying up. The first two meet today in what will become a of series of relegation "six pointers". Although there is still a chance that clubs such as Leicester and Middlesbrough might be drawn into the relegation dogfight, the three clubs mentioned that are playing today, plus Everton, Blackburn and Nottingham Forest, are those most in danger of going down. Everton have been in the top flight for 45 consecutive seasons and been champions four times; Coventry have been among the élite for the last 32 seasons and have a best finish of sixth; Southampton's tenure is 21 seasons (best finish second); Blackburn have managed seven straight years and been champions once.

This is the fourth season of the slimmed-down version of the Premiership, with 20 clubs. So far, eight clubs (Bolton twice) have been relegated to the Nationwide and only one of them has not been in the bottom three at the end of February. That was two seasons ago, when Sunderland tumbled from 14th to 18th in the last dozen games and were overtaken by Southampton. The Saints are looking for a similar escape route again.

There are a number of pointers to a team's survival prospects, including the overall trends. Alarm bells must be ringing for Nottingham Forest and Everton, who took eight and 11 points respectively from their first nine games, but slid to five points and six points from their third nine. Another way to judge a club's chances is the toughness of their run-in, with Everton's being the toughest, including Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea, and Blackburn's, on paper at least, being the easiest.

Of the six prime candidates for the drop, all have 11 games left; Everton and Charlton have six to play away, while Blackburn, Coventry, Southampton and Forest have six games at home. Everton are the only side still to face all three of the Premiership's top-three sides, and are also the only side with a continuing FA Cup interest (or distraction, depending on your view).

Attempting to pick out the winners and losers in what is likely to be a determined scrap by all the partcipants is hard, but calculating probable results is one way of making an attempt. The six bottom sides have all faced their 11 remaining opponents already this season and those results can be used as a guide. An away win or draw becomes a home win, an odd-goal away defeat becomes a home draw, and a two- or more goal away defeat becomes a home defeat. Home defeats or draws become away defeats, an odd-goal home win becomes an away draw and a two- or more goal home win becomes an away win. On this basis, Charlton and Forest will go down on points. Southampton, Blackburn and Everton will all finish with 38 points and the Saints will lose out on goal difference, and Coventry will be safe. Still, that's only statistics, and football is, as we know, a funny old game.

Precedents in going down

Bottom three in February 1996		*...and end of 1995-96 season*	
18.	Manchester City	18.	Manchester City
19.	QPR	19.	QPR
20.	Bolton	20.	Bolton

Bottom three in February 1997		*...and end of 1996-97 season*	
18.	Nottingham Forest	18.	Sunderland
19.	Southampton	19.	Middlesbrough
20.	Middlesbrough	20.	Nottingham Forest

Bottom three in February 1998		*...and end of 1997-98 season*	
18.	Barnsley	18.	Bolton
19.	Bolton	19.	Barnsley
20.	Crystal Palace	20.	Crystal Palace

End of February 1999

18. Blackburn
19. Southampton
20. Nottingham Forest

Tail-enders' trends
Points gained from..

	1st 9 games	2nd 9 games	3rd 9 games	Total
Everton	11	11	6	28
Charlton	10	6	11	27
Coventry	8	8	11	27
Blackburn	8	6	12	26
So'ton	2	11	10	23
N Forest	8	4	5	17

1999 Form - the last seven games

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Charlton	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Coventry	7	3	1	3	12	9	10
Southampton	7	3	1	3	11	13	10
Blackburn	7	2	2	3	7	10	8
Everton	7	1	2	4	7	8	5
N Forest	7	1	1	5	4	18	4

The run-ins:
average Premiership position of remaining opponents

At	home	Away	Home and away
Everton	10.4	9.7	10
Nottm Forest	11.2	8.8	10.1
Charlton	9.4	11.5	10.5
Southampton	11	10.2	10.6
Coventry	13.3	10	11.8
Blackburn	10.8	13.8	12.2

Run-ins: projected returns on statistical criteria (see text)

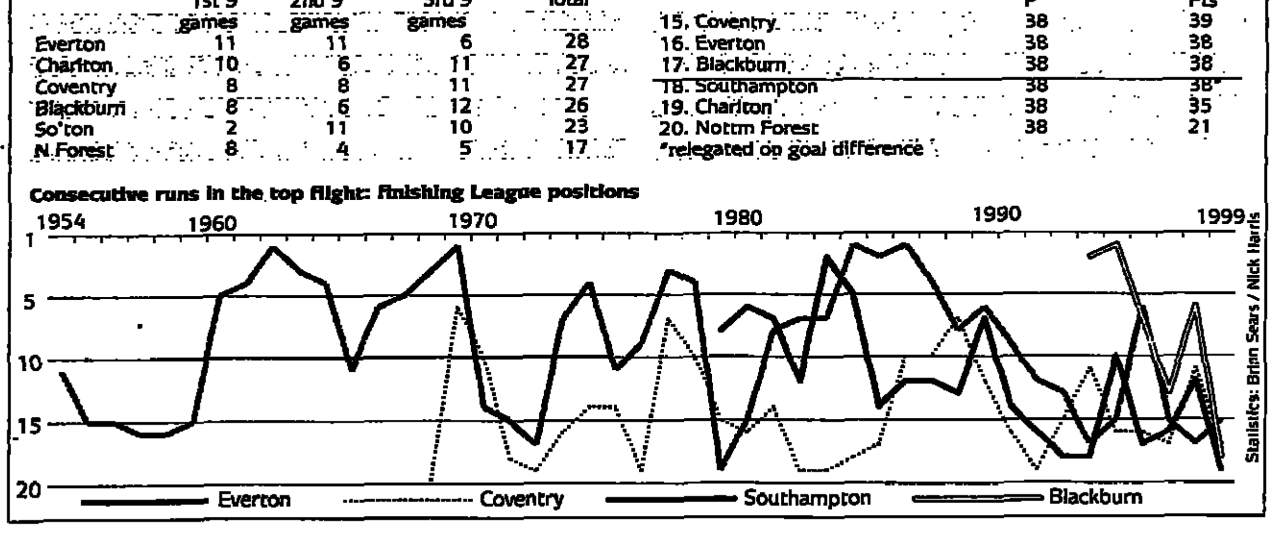
Club	Forecast points	Projected highlights now to season's end
Southampton	15	Home win v Arsenal
Blackburn	12	Home win v Wimbledon
Coventry	12	Away win v Everton
Everton	10	Home win v Charlton
Charlton	8	Away win v West Ham
Forest	4	Home win v Middlesbrough

And the winners and losers might be..

	P	Pts
15. Coventry	38	39
16. Everton	38	38
17. Blackburn	38	38
18. Southampton	38	38*
19. Charlton	38	35
20. Nottm Forest	38	21

*relegated on goal difference

Consecutive runs in the top flight: Finishing League positions



Statistics: Brian Sears / Nick Harris

TODAY'S PREMIERSHIP

Coventry v Charlton

Last season:No fixture

FEW GAMES are likely to prove more crucial in the relegation battle at the bottom of the Premiership than this encounter at Highfield Road. Coventry and Charlton occupy the two positions immediately above the drop zone but both know that a poor run could see them fall into the bottom three.

Coventry gave themselves renewed confidence by winning 4-1 at Aston Villa last week. However, George Boateng, who has been one of Coventry's most impressive performers recently, is suspended today. Noel Whelan, who has recovered from a shoulder injury, may play in midfield, leaving John Aloisi to continue up front alongside Darren Huckerby. However, either Trond Soltvedt or Philippe Clement could also be brought into the team.

Simon Royce, the Charlton goalkeeper, is chasing a club record of five consecutive clean sheets in the top flight, but the visitors' defence will be without some familiar figures this afternoon as Eddie Youds and Richard Rufus are sidelined by injury. Charlton have completed the signing of Martin Pringle from Benfica.

COVENTRY (from): Hedman, Nilsson, Shaw, Williams, Burrows, Telfer, McAllister, Froggatt, Huckerby, Aloisi, Whelan, Soltvedt, Clement, Gioacchini, Konjic, Breen, Ogrizovic.

CHARLTON (from): Barnes, Barness, Beale, Bright, Brown, Fortune, Holmes, Hunt, Ilic, S Jones, K Jones, Kinsella, Konchesky, Mendonca, Mills, Mortimer, Newton, Parker, Powell, Pringle, Redfearn, Robinson, Royce, Tiler.

Suspension: Boateng (Coventry).

Referee: A Wilkie (Chester-le-Street).

Southampton v West Ham

Last season: 3-0

SOUTHAMPTON HAVE Egil Ostenstad (groin), Jason Dodd (ankle), Claus Lundekvam (hamstring), Ken Monkou (hamstring) and James Beattie (groin) all struggling for fitness, though Hassan Kachloul and Matthew Le Tissier could return to the starting line-up. Although he is not fit for today's match, David Hirst may soon return Hirst, 31, has not played since damaging knee ligaments in a freak training ground incident in pre-season but played an hour of Southampton's reserve team match against Peterborough on Wednesday night. He has undergone two operations and returned to training last month and is poised for a return to action against Sheffield Wednesday on 20 March.

West Ham have a poor record at the Dell, having won there just nine times in 37 visits. The last of these victories was in 1993, when Trevor Morley and Lee Chapman scored in a 2-0 win. Today the defender Ian Pearce is their only doubt. He hurt his neck on Thursday and is wearing a brace. Neil Ruddock is fit again and would be a ready-made replacement to face his former club after missing the last two matches with a groin injury.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): Jones, Hiley, Benali, Lundekvam, Colleter, D Hughes, Marsden, Oakley, Bridge, Beattie, M Hughes, Le Tissier, Monkou, Kachloul, Dodd.

WEST HAM (from): Hislop, P Pearce, Ferdinand, Lomas, Foe, Lampard, Berkovic, Keller, Minto, Sinclair, Di Canio, Kitson, Cole, Moncur, Lazaridis, Forrest.

Referee: D Gallagher (Banbury, Oxon).

Wimbledon v Leicester

Last season: 2-1

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, is in hospital in Sheffield after his heart attack in midweek but was still picking the team for today's match. Kinnear, 52, is in a stable condition at the Northern General Hospital, where he was taken on Wednesday night just before Wimbledon kicked off against Sheffield Wednesday. He was rushed into hospital after he complained of feeling unwell as the players prepared to change at Hillsborough. John Hartson is available for Wimbledon after serving the four-match ban imposed for his training ground attack on Eyal Berkovic at West Ham, but may not get in the starting line-up as Efan Ekoku and Marcus Gayle are in good form. The defender Ben Thatcher is also back in contention after a one-match ban.

Emile Heskey's back trouble makes him a doubtful starter for Leicester. A scan revealed he will not require surgery and he will have treatment up until the last minute in an attempt to play. Steve Walsh has recovered from influenza and Gerry Taggart is back from suspension, but Frank Sinclair is still suffering from a thigh strain and may miss the game.

WIMBLEDON (from): Sullivan, Cunningham, Kimble, Thatcher, Perry, Blackwell, Earle, Ekoku, Roberts, Gayle, Ardley, M Hughes, Hartson, C Hughes, Euell, Kennedy, Cort, Heald.

LEICESTER (from): Keller, Savage, Impey, Kamark, Elliott, Walsh, Taggart, Ullathorne, Guppy, Izzet, Lennon, Zagorakis, Gunnlaugsson, Marshall, Cottee, Heskey, Campbell, Parker, Oakes, Arphexad.

Referee: R Harris (Oxford).

ITALIAN PREVIEW

By Ian Davies

FIORENTINA, WHO took *Serie A* by storm early in the season but have slipped to third place behind Lazio, entertain second-placed Parma live on Channel 4 tomorrow in a game both sides need to win to keep their *scudetto* hopes alive.

Fiorentina have been a revelation this term. Giovanni Trapattoni, their coach, has sorted out their defence, allowing La Viola to exploit the awesome goal threat that "the angel" Gabriel Batistuta, their phenomenal Argentinian centre-forward poses. But Batistuta, top scorer in *Serie A* with a sensational 18 league goals, injured a knee recently. In their three games without "Batigol," Fiorentina have looked impotent, drawing two and losing one. Moreno Torricelli, a defender, scored their only goal in those games.

Batistuta has resumed training, but is unlikely to start, while the Brazilian striker Edmundo has a badly-bruised chest so the Belgian midfielder Luis Oliveira may play up front. The midfielder Christian Amoroso returns but the defender Pasquale Padalino is doubtful.

The "purple princes" are against it for Parma have an awesome array of talent this term. Adopting an attacking 3-4-3 formation under Alberto Malesani, their coach, Parma have been terrifying at times. They have strength from back to front with Gianluigi Buffon in goal, French World Cup winner Lilian Thuram and Fabio Cannavaro in their back three, Diego Fuser and Dino Baggio in midfield, and a strike force which perms three from four out of Enrico Chiesa, Faustino Asprilla, the ex-Newcastle Colombian, and Hernan Crespo and Abel Balbo, Batistuta's Argentinian understudies. But, best of all, sitting in behind the front three is Juan Sebastian Veron, the superb Argentinian playmaker.

Parma come into this game following a 2-1 defeat at Bordeaux in the first-leg of their Uefa Cup quarter-final tie on Tuesday, a tie in which Malesani controversially rested players with this game – for which the injured French international midfielder Alain Boghossian may be replaced by Stefano Fiore – in mind.

Tomorrow: Bari v Internazionale; Bologna v Venezia; Cagliari v Vicenza; Fiorentina v Parma; Lazio v Salernitana; Milan v Piacenza; Perugia v Empoli; Udinese v Roma. **Tomorrow night:** Sampdoria v Juventus.

SCOTTISH PREVIEW

By Simon Buckland

ST JOHNSTONE'S Alan Kernaghan and Motherwell's Ged Brannan are two of a kind; both suffered rejection at Manchester City and rebuilt their careers north of the border.

They meet in the Scottish Cup quarter-final at Fir Park today having each been labelled expensive misfits at Maine Road, but since hailed as bargain buys in Scotland.

Brannan joined City for £750,000 from Tranmere, but was viewed as a utility player and never established a regular position in the starting line-up and was sold for £300,000 earlier this term.

Kernaghan's decline and fall was more dramatic still as after signing for City from Middlesbrough for £1.6m, the Republic of Ireland international centre-half endured abject misery. His salvation was a loan spell to Perth last season which prompted a free transfer arrangement which left City with a financial loss, but the player himself with a huge psychological boost.

Ironically, the moment Kernaghan knew his Maine Road days were numbered was when today's adversary Brannan, a midfielder, was preferred to him in at the heart of defence.

Kernaghan said: "I can relate to what happened to Ged. He thought his career was on the up when he moved from Tranmere for £750,000 and I was thinking that way when I joined City. But the moves backfired badly for us both."

Saints have reached and lost the Scottish League Cup final this season and Kernaghan is optimistic of a rare double with a happier outcome in May.

Dundee United's manager, Paul Sturrock, has warned his players that too many are under-performing too often as they prepare to face a fourth-round replay against Clydebank. He said: "I may freshen up the team because we need the right attitude and work-rate for this one because there have been too many heartaches lately."

Dunfermline yesterday completed the £170,000 capture of Motherwell's Owen Coyle. The 32-year-old had been first choice at Motherwell and primed to play against St Johnstone today. Now he should instead make his Pars debut at Kilmarnock with the bottom club, Dunfermline.

SPORT

JACKSON'S WAIT IS OVER P24 ● SMITH GUNNING FOR GLORY P30

The world champion Mika Hakkinen climbs out of his McLaren after crashing during free practice for tomorrow's Australian Grand Prix. He was second fastest behind his team-mate David Coulthard *Report, page 22; AFP*

England prepare to flex muscle

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT
in Dublin

IT SEEMS almost disrespectful to suggest that an England pack boasting the better part of 250 caps needs to prove itself in the humdinging chaos of Lansdowne Road this afternoon, but the powder-puff performance of the red rose forwards against Scotland a fortnight ago has transformed today's little set-to with the Bash Street tearaways of Ireland into a highly significant rite of passage. A cohesive, authoritative job of work at the sharp end will put the current eight safely on course for the World Cup.

Another outbreak of horizontal pacifism will raise some very awkward questions indeed.

Clive Woodward, the visitors' coach, has spent much of this past week talking up his bench replacements, in particular Danny Grewcock and Martin Corry, and the message has been as clear as a summer's dawn in Galway: unless the incumbents stand up to be counted against Paddy Johns' furious emerald enforcers in the most eagerly-awaited Ireland-England match for years, Woodward will not hesitate to stand them down. "There were a number of experienced players who failed to do the job against Scotland, at least to the standards we've set ourselves as a squad," Woodward said yesterday.

"You can't have that in international rugby. End of story."

Fortunately for Woodward's Grand Slam ambitions, his key personnel have literally been here before. Back in 1997, when the Irish hard men strongly fancied their chances of giving England a serious hurry-up in front of the boisterous Dublin support, they found Jason Leonard, Tim Rodber and an inspired Richard Hill in ruthless mood. Leonard, in particular, had been stung by impertinent suggestions of his declining powers and, thus motivated, proved impossible to subdue.

Two years on, the dear old stick picks and chooses his big games; indeed, with 68 caps safely stowed in his Harlequins kitbag he is perfectly entitled to plot his own route across the increasingly hazardous landscape of the international game. The question today is whether he has the physical wherewithal, not to mention the desire, to go eyeball to eyeball with an implacable Irish front row and reassert his old superiority. On days like this it begins and ends up front.

Ireland's chances of a first victory over England since 1994 lay in two distinct areas. The first is in the front row, where the hostile Peter Clohessy and the technically proficient Paul Wallace provide such an effective launch pad for Keith Wood, whose rampant individualism remains one of modern-day rugby's compelling attractions. The second is in the stands and terraces of the oldest, most rickety and most wonderfully charming international venue of them all. The Dublin audience is always 16th player. On a good day, it is a 17th and 18th too.

"I'm not sure the Lansdowne Road factor is quite what it was," confessed Donald Lenihan, the Irish team manager, whose own long and honoured career in the emerald engine-room was marked by more than one Dublin triumph over the mainlanders. "To be honest with you, when you play as we did two years ago and lose by 40 points, you don't deserve the support of the crowd. So we have to earn that support and the way to do that is to give them something to shout about in the first 10 minutes or so. They'd get right behind us then, for sure."

In Woodward's opinion, professionalism has diluted the home venue effect.

"It's easier to play at home, obviously, but in an era of full-time players and coaches, there is no excuse for not coping with the particular atmosphere generated in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Paris or Auckland. Or here in Dublin, of course. It was a difficult place to play in my day and it's not easy now, but I would expect us to do the right things in the right places of the field wherever we happen to be."

One person who was in Dublin yesterday – in the England team hotel in Killiney – was Tony Underwood, the Newcastle wing. Woodward insisted there was nothing to be read into his late arrival, however. "Tony is just about the only senior England player we haven't picked for either the international side or the A team and I want to keep him involved," he explained. "Of course, he'd be handy cover in the event of an outbreak of 'flu." And had there been an outbreak of 'flu? "No," insisted the coach.

"Everyone's fit and firing." Mmmm.

If the England forwards fail to fire at 4pm today, the Irish will have them for afternoon tea. But the stakes are sufficiently high to bring the red rose blood to boiling point and given their recent record – 15 tries in their last six visits to Dublin – the odds favour another step towards a record fifth successive Triple Crown. Just.

IRELAND v ENGLAND

at Lansdowne Road, Dublin

Ireland			England	
C O'Shea	(London Irish)	15	**M Perry**	(Bath)
J Bishop	(London Irish)	14	**D Rees**	(Sale)
K Maggs	(Bath)	13	**J Wilkinson**	(Newcastle)
R Henderson	(Wasps)	12	**J Guscott**	(Bath)
G Dempsey	(Terenure)	11	**D Luger**	(Harlequins)
D Humphreys	(Dungannon)	10	**P Grayson**	(Northampton)
C McGuinness	(St Mary's)	9	**K Bracken**	(Saracens)
P Clohessy	(Young Munster)	1	**J Leonard**	(Harlequins)
K Wood	(Harlequins)	2	**R Cockerill**	(Leicester)
P Wallace	(Saracens)	3	**D Garforth**	(Leicester)
P Johns	(Saracens, capt)	4	**M Johnson**	(Leicester)
J Davidson	(Castres)	5	**T Rodber**	(Northampton)
D O'Cuinneagain	(Sale)	6	**R Hill**	(Saracens)
A Ward	(Ballynahinch)	7	**N Back**	(Leicester)
V Costello	(St Mary's)	8	**L Dallaglio**	(Wasps, capt)

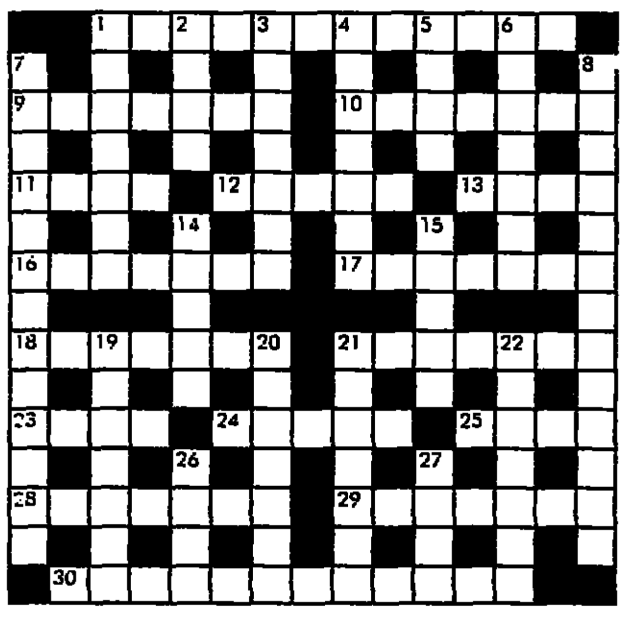
Replacements: 16 K Keane (Garryowen); 17 E Elwood (Galwegians); 18 C Scally (University College Dublin); 19 E Miller (Terenure College); 20 M Galwey (Shannon); 21 J Fitzpatrick (Dungannon); 22 R Nesdale (Newcastle).

Replacements: 16 N Beal (Northampton); 17 M Catt (Bath); 18 M Dawson (Northampton); 19 M Corry (Leicester); 20 D Grewcock (Saracens); 21 V Ubogu (Bath); 22 N McCarthy (Gloucester).

Referee: P O'Brien (New Zealand) **Kick-off:** 4.0 (BBC1)

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD

No.3863 Saturday 6 March by Spurius



ACROSS

1 Stiff communication? (4,8)
9 Shout of joy as girl's put on stockings - almost (7)
10 Ruler's wife last month admitted by hospital - American (7)
11 Endless satire in press (4)
12 Bonnet of RR? (5)
13 Vain daughter in Corsica, e.g. (4)
16 Being disposed in the end to expect the denouement (7)
17 Repair worker returning from call, nothing found here (7)
18 One failing to secure a place on a course (4-3)
21 Disengage from pawnbroker mostly when taking pawn (7)
23 New article on poem, not sophisticated (4)
24 Question two fellows about a drink (5)
25 Beginners' course? (4)
28 Journalist, one included in special team to act as go-between (7)
29 One officer removing fellow acting suspiciously in opening (7)
30 Unsuccessful entrant in junior Miss Aylesbury contest? (4,8)

DOWN

1 Idiot has broken special instrument (7)
2 Chilly introductions from duke and knight meeting king (4)
3 Article on batting held by cricket side to be biased (7)
4 One way to obtain inspiration (7)
5 Citrus fruit extract found in jug - limeade (4)
6 See Greek with American, an old lady (7)
7 Designation used to distinguish some Pitcairn Islanders? (9,4)
8 Records covering exercise in cannery condemned fiery condiment (7,6)
14 Story about important dietary constituent (5)
15 Put on electricity supply in hospital department (5)
19 Noisy party - son gets dreadful hiding (7)
20 Recently arrived, you've initially missed getting into North American union (7)
21 Strip of cloth? (7)
22 Freely admitting women's organisation in county needs a bit of guidance (7)
26 Change for Flaubert character - no personal problem (4)
27 Southern France or Italy in 1501 (4)

Friday's solution

```
HAGA   STATUARY
E O W G R H L A
SYNCHRONISATION
I E I B D N G K
SCRIPTURE SINK 
T   P S N G M  
ELEMENT TURKEY 
U L R     E N I
 TEASEL MESSTIN
  V N U A S   F
 BETA CARNIVORE
E N P E S O P R
MISAPPREHENSION
I E E N Y S N A
ROSARIES   CELL
```

Last Saturday's solution

```
PECTIN AFFLUENT
O O T U I U X H
SECTIONAL CACHE
I A N O L R I B
TRIREME INERTIA
I N R R N   E N
OMEGA SIGNPOST 
N   N T S R   S
 CONTRACT ORBIT
H B   T A S O Y
AUSPICE TOENAIL
N E S M I C T I
GERMS EMOLUMENT
U V U N N T R E
PREVENTS VERSUS
```

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: B Pinfield, Porthleven; H Perfect, Totley; A Hargreaves, Hinckley; A Park, Cambridge; K Hey, Kidlington.

Nicknames for the new era

CRICKET

BY NICK HARRIS

THE POWERS that be in English cricket have become "desperately obsessed with gimmickry" and have resorted to promotional techniques that are "rather sad" according to Matthew Engel, the editor of *Wisden*, cricket's bible, said yesterday.

Engel was speaking after the English Cricket Board released a list of nicknames that will be used by the country's county teams during this season's new Sunday league competition. In Division One, plain old Yorkshire – perhaps inspired by the international side's defeat in The Ashes and hoping to rise up into some powerful new force – have become Yorkshire Phoenix, while in Division Two, Durham have suddenly become *Dynamos*.

Elsewhere, Gloucestershire have become Gladiators, Nottinghamshire have become Outlaws and Sussex have become Sharks.

The new initiative was the brainwave of the ECB's marketing department. "This season the idea is to reinforce the new aspects of the new league and introduce nicknames that will be relevant to young supporters," a spokesman said. "It's good from a marketing and PR point of view," he added, saying that counties had been encouraged, not forced, to choose nicknames.

The only county that has so far resisted the urge to pick a snazzy moniker is Kent, although a spokeswoman for the county denied that it was because they felt the idea was inappropriate and added that a name would be chosen soon.

The ECB spokesman said that counties might become closer to their supporters due to the nicknames, because fans will be able to identify more strongly with their side.

Such logic is likely to be given short shrift amongst traditionalists in the shires. "I think that if the product's right then people will want it," Engel said. "The marketing is the layer on top of that. The people running cricket have become desperately obsessed with gimmickry." He added: "It's rather sad because nicknames are something that evolve... This is like a pub being renamed. When imposed by a marketing department it tends not to work. It's harmless but rather sad."

In the new competition, which replaces the one-division Sunday league, matches will be played over 45 overs rather than 40, moving closer to the standard 50 overs used in one-day internationals. Crazee Cricket anyone?

COUNTIES' ADDED DIMENSIONS

DIVISION ONE
1 Essex Eagles
2 Gloucestershire Gladiators
3 Hampshire Hawks
4 Kent (no nickname announced)
5 Lancashire Lightning
6 Leicestershire Foxes
7 Warwickshire Bears
8 Worcestershire Royals
9 Yorkshire Phoenix

DIVISION TWO
1 Derbyshire Scorpions
2 Durham Dynamos
3 Glamorgan Dragons
4 Middlesex Crusaders
5 Northamptonshire Steelbacks
6 Nottinghamshire Outlaws
7 Somerset Sabres
8 Surrey Lions
9 Sussex Sharks

IN MONDAY'S 12-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Ken Jones on the magic of Madison Square Garden, venue for next week's world heavyweight title fight

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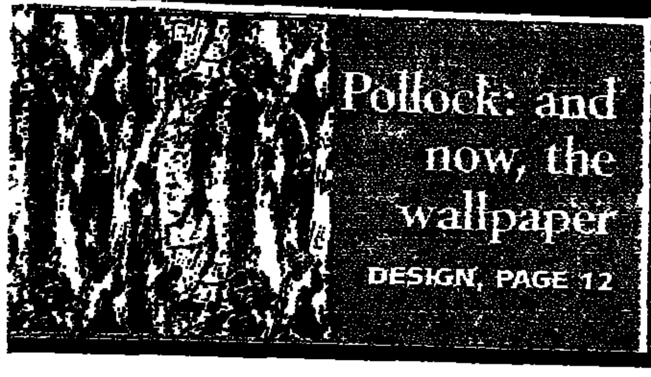
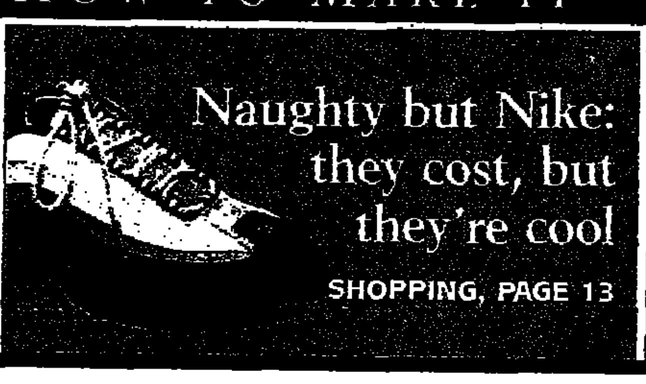
THE INDEPENDENT

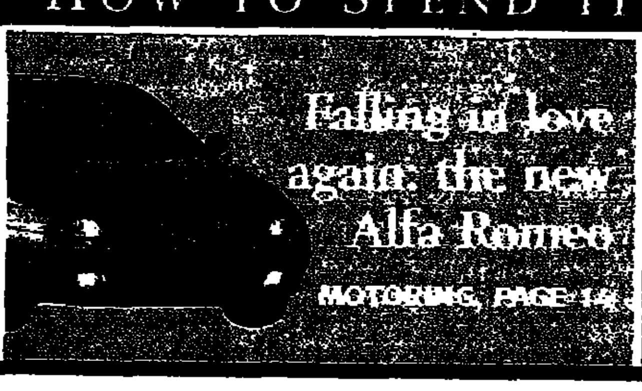
Saturday 6 March 1999

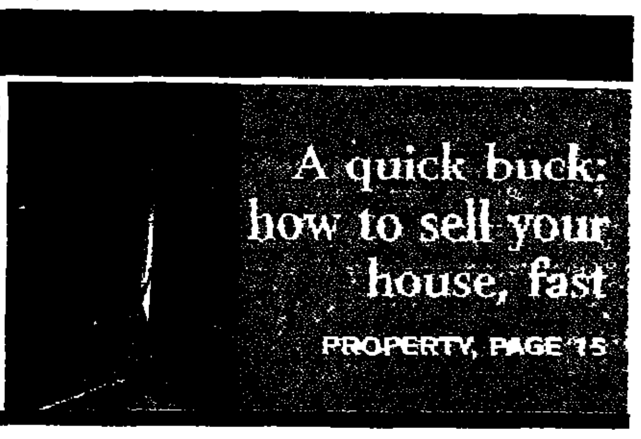
YOUR MONEY

HOW TO MAKE IT • HOW TO SPEND IT


Pollock: and now, the wallpaper
DESIGN, PAGE 12


Naughty but Nike: they cost, but they're cool
SHOPPING, PAGE 13


Falling in love again: the new Alfa Romeo
MOTORING, PAGE 14


A quick buck: how to sell your house, fast
PROPERTY, PAGE 15

The real cost of caring

Will the Royal Commission report change the financial facts of care for the old? By **Teresa Hunter**

You've just given your eldest son a deposit for his flat at university. Your daughter is off on a school skiing trip to New England, and you've just been told that Johnny Junior is headed for four Threes at Key Stage Two, which means you'll have to find the money for school fees in September.

And then mum, who lives with you, and owns half your house, has a stroke and your wife says she just can't cope. And they say life begins at 40.

The most difficult act many of us face today involves not juggling home and work, but counterbalancing the demands of different generations. The Royal Commission on Long-Term Care, which reported this week, sets out a blueprint for resolving many of the issues surrounding caring for older generations.

The Royal Commission proposes to separate nursing and personal-care costs from those for board and lodging. It suggests that the cost of all help with washing, dressing, feeding and other assistance should be paid for by the taxpayer. Furthermore, only people with assets of £60,000 should be required to contribute towards the costs of the other so-called "hotel" charges.

The immediate response this week of Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, was that more "informed debate" was necessary. A spokesman for Age Concern says: "Have you seen how many people the Commission consulted? The list is as long and as impressive as it could be. There is no one left to talk to.

"We have been waiting for five years at least for this report. Many people have been putting off taking decisions about whether to sell their parents' home. But it's quite clear now that this is nothing like the final chapter to the whole saga."

What is the scale of the problem? Age Concern estimates that of Britain's 10 million retired, only one in a 100 will need long-term care before the age of 75. Even over that age, and up to 84, only 6 per cent might find themselves permanently resident in a nursing home. But once we hit 85, one in four of us will be unable to live alone without full-time care, and that figure rises each year thereafter.

Meeting that cost, anything between £250 and £400 a week, can prove a huge financial burden for families, and many feel confused and resentful about who must foot which bills. If you need nursing care following a heart attack, for example, then your care will be paid for by the state. But if you suffer from Alzheimer's, you have to pay the bill yourself.

If you have assets, including your home, of less than £10,000 you can still look to the State for support. Between £10,000 and £16,000, you must pay towards your care. But above that ceiling, you are on your own.

Experts believe the enormous cost of implementing the Royal Commission's proposals, between £800m and £1.2bn a year, will deter the Government from implementing them.

Yet the insurance industry broadly supports the views of campaigners that the entire issue must be resolved soon. It is, not surprisingly, concerned that until this happens, people are not buying long-term care insurance. Bupa's Geoff Brown explains: "It would be great if the health care part of long-term care is free in future as it would dramatically cut the cost of insuring against nursing-home care.

"My worry is that far from the position being clarified, we are still in a limbo, where people are reluctant to buy insurance because they don't know what they're insuring against."

The report is emphatic in its rejection of insurance as a remedy for the problem, because those who need it most are least likely to be able to afford it. It says: "Private insurance is intended to bridge the gap between an individual's income and the cost of care. This means that people with lower incomes have a bigger gap to bridge, so must insure for higher amounts. They are therefore less able to afford the premiums."

The other insurmountable problem is that those who need solutions to long-term care needs now, may have left it too late for insurance to help, though younger people could protect themselves by taking out a policy 20 years before they're likely to need it.

Yet despite all the concern, only a small number of us is likely to need it. Despite an ageing population, Age Concern estimates that only an extra 100,000 people will need any full-time care with each decade that passes.

Nevertheless, some 40,000 are forced into selling their homes to pay for care each year, even though 70 per cent of the 500,000 residents of nursing and residential homes are paid for by the State under the present less-than-generous regime.

People who wish to guarantee their independence in old age face three options: an immediate plan, a bond-based plan, or a risk-based plan. An immediate plan works like an annuity, you hand an insurance company a lump sum and it guarantees to make payments over an agreed period.

A bond-based plan is a hybrid investment and insurance plan. You invest a substantial lump sum, and insurance premiums are paid from the capital growth.

Finally, a risk-based plan works like any other insurance policy, only the monthly premiums are somewhat higher than with a typical contents policy. A 65-year-old woman would have to pay £70 per month to buy £10,000 of annual cover, or £100 a month for an element of index-linking. The figures are a little lower for a man.

The Commission did look at equity release schemes, but these are often of most profit to the lenders selling them. The report concluded that the most promising use of equity release was where individuals could use their homes to buy care, perhaps by exchanging one home for another.

But for families facing tough decisions now about what to do with mum or dad's home, the best advice probably is to sell it and invest the proceeds wisely, so that income can pay for the nursing-home bills. But then, who breaks that news to mum?

Once we hit 85, it is estimated that one in four of us will require full-time care *Nigel Dickinson*

BARGAIN HUNTER

Property of the week

Didn't we have a lovely time...

Tregarne, a three-bedroom detached house near Bangor, on Anglesey, was built by the owner's grandfather in 1910. It looks fetchingly exotic with its pink-washed walls and graceful clump of small palm trees. An oil-fired Aga in the breakfast room supplies the hot water as well as being used for cooking and there are tiled fireplaces, built-in cupboards and a good old-fashioned boxroom. Vegetables come from the garden and water from a well, pumped into the domestic system, but there's mains drainage and electricity. Outside there is a garage block, with store and hayloft above. £10,000 has just been knocked off the price, making it now £119,000. Details from Dafydd Hardy (01248 371212).

ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the week

Your Papa wouldn't like it

The all new Renault Clio arrived last spring. Strong sales and the endorsement of Vic, Bob and Nicole meant that many overlooked the fact the car didn't have the sparkle of the original. The bug-eyed styling was not as cheeky as before, although this was a much more comfortable, spacious and better-built model than before. Even so, this Renault is not a state-of-the-art supermini. However, when introduced, pricing was competitive, as the new model undercut the old by £1,000. At Renault Ilford (0181-276 5040) it is possible to do the same again with nil-mileage, 1999 S-registered examples at £7,695 (cost new £8,770). They started with 11 Grande models and now have two. Hurry whilst stocks last.

JAMES RUPPERT

Deal of the week

Caps in hand

Eddie George may not have done mortgage borrowers any favours this month when he refused to lower interest rates any further. But that doesn't mean there aren't good home-loan deals around. Savill Private Finance, has launched a range of two-year capped-rate deals, with rates ranging between 3.1 per cent to 5.29 per cent on loans above £100,000. The difference in rates depends on whether borrowers are prepared to accept redemption penalties, which range from seven months' interest until March 2004 on the 3.1 per cent deal to no penalty at all on the 5.29 per cent one. The middle option of a 5.1 per cent cap involves a seven-month interest charge, but only for the duration of the cap itself. There are arrangment fees of £280, plus a valuation fee of £270. No compulsory insurance is needed. Call 0171-330 8550.

NIC CICUTTI

Moment of truth for the not so well endowed

First it was duff personal pensions. Now endowment mortgages, another Eighties fad, have come under fire from regulators. By **Andrew Verity**

HOLDERS OF endowment policies linked to mortgages can receive less than half of their contributions back if they surrender the policies after five years, it emerged this week.

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial watchdog, yesterday published a survey showing more than 30 per cent of policies involved a monthly savings lapse within five years. This comes amid rumours that regulators are poised to launch an investigation into sales of endowments. Some experts suggest that the scale of this probe could rival the recent pensions mis-selling scandal.

In the report's worst-case scenario, a saver who paid £60 a month into a 25-year with-profits endowment from Royal & SunAlliance (RSA), and enjoyed 7.5 per cent investment growth, would get just £1,390 back after five years' payments – after paying in £3,600.

According to the survey, the worst surrender values come, in ascending order, from RSA, Allied Dunbar, Abbey Life, Marine & General, Reliance Mutual, and Axa Sun Life. All of them will pay back less than £2,300 from the £3,600 contributed.

Why are they such poor value? The costs of providing the policy – the biggest element of which is the sales person's commission – are loaded into upfront charges which come out in the early years. If you buy an endowment from an independent financial adviser, the commission alone will eat up at least 90 per cent of the first year's premiums. For successfully persuading one customer to pay £100 a month into a 25-year endowment, the adviser gets over £1,000.

If you buy it from a company rep – usually, the type of adviser that knocks on the door, or phones after getting your name from a customer – the commission is on average £1,284.

But the most expensive sellers of mortgage-linked endowment policies are so-called "appointed representatives" – estate agents, solicitors, banks and building societies.

Because they can bring a large chunk of business to the insurance company issuing the endowment, they can demand higher commissions. For selling you a 25-year, £100-a-month endowment, an estate agent will on average snatch £1,524 of your savings. (Selling a repayment mortgage, on the other hand, will only earn the agent around £200.) It is this upfront cost, plus other charges, which causes the poor surrender value.

Insurers argue that buyers sign up for a 25-year contract and should not expect value for money if they break it. At maturity the policies can pay handsome rewards. By paying £60 a month to RSA for the whole 25 years – a total of £18,000 – the saver can expect £34,000 back.

But surveys have also shown that only a minority of savers actually make it to maturity. Tony Holland, the PIA's ombudsman, has pointed out that the causes of lapsing (most commonly unemployment and divorce) are rarely within the policyholder's control. And consumer groups argue that the third of policyholders who lapse rarely do so because they are feckless: it is usually because they simply cannot afford it.

The suspicion is growing that the sale of endowments too often has more to do with commission than with good advice. *Which?* this week published the finding of a mystery shopping expedition. It found nine out of 45 firms of financial advisers gave poor advice. And in many cases the advice was to buy an endowment.

In one particularly bad example, a firm of solicitors in Nottinghamshire gave specific advice to an undercover researcher after just a couple of minutes – without conducting a fact-find required by regulators. The recommendation was an unnecessary endowment that would have cost the researcher £1,560 in commission.

Worse, the amount of money generated by endowments is set to fall. Actuaries, the professionals who decide the level of annual bonus paid to holders of endowments, are predicting that payouts will halve over the next 10 years because of the climate of lower inflation and interest rates. For those who bought policies on the basis of rapid investment growth, this could mean they are caught short when the mortgage falls due.

While some companies have, on their own initiative, contacted customers to warn them of this possibility, others have not. Policyholders concerned about the issue should contact their insurer to find out whether they may suffer a shortfall.

In the meantime, the Financial Services Authority, the City's leading regulator, has launched a probe into possible mis-selling of endowments – still sold with a third of all mortgages. So far, it is refusing to say whether it will tell the public its findings.

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NIC CICUTTI

It is the young, not the elderly, who have got a few goes left at the ballot box

SEVEN OR eight years ago, at the height of the housing market's recession, between 50,000 and 70,000 home-owners each year were forced to hand back the keys of their properties.

The combination of repossessions, negative equity and their implications for home-owners became emblematic of how the Thatcherite vision had gone sour for a vast swathe of the UK population. I have no doubt that this played a part in New Labour's 1997 election victory.

Fast-forward to the new millennium and another set of people, up to 40,000 a year, also forced to sell their homes. Not because they can't pay for the home itself, that was probably taken care of a decade or two ago, but because they can't meet the bill for long-term care they need in their old age.

This week, a Royal Commission on long-term care suggested that while it may make sense for old people to pay for the "accommodation" element of care (such as their board and keep), the state ought to cover the cost of the "medical" part of it (nursing care and suchlike).

After all, as the Commission's report puts it so effectively, why should someone aged 75 who suffers a heart attack receive free care on the NHS while another person diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease is obliged to sell up their home to pay for it?

The Government's response is interesting: "We must have more debate on the subject," said Frank Dobson, the Health Minister, as if the Commission's report were not the product of long and patient discussion between scores of experts, including civil servants, insurance companies, welfare organisations and campaign groups, not to mention older people themselves.

Behind Mr Dobson's bluster lies the fact that this Government would rather not stump up £1bn a year on the Commission's proposals. Instead, it is prepared to see helpless pensioners sell the only assets they have to finance their own care.

Why? Because we're talking about old people who are likely to kick the bucket any day now and are therefore considered to be expendable. Clearly, they are not important when compared to a younger generation who might well have quite a few goes left at the ballot box and who could queer New Labour's pitch in one of the many marginal seats they snatched at the last election.

Except that, as increasing numbers of children of older people in need of long-term care are discovering, it is the assets they were expecting to inherit that are being sold off so that Mummy or Daddy can have a nurse in to bathe her or him twice a week. If that happened to me, I think I might get a bit upset with New Labour.

The solution, as clearly outlined in the Royal Commission's report, is to ensure that the care side is met by taxation, leaving the rest to be paid for by pensioners themselves. The bill becomes more manageable and can be met in a combination of ways, including higher pension savings, LTC insurance, income from a PEP, an ISA or whatever.

The important point is to stop pretending that "more discussion" means not taking action now. For most people, a house move takes place on a Saturday. As you read this column, a further 750 people may be taking a last look around the home they lived in most of their lives in and shutting the door behind them forever. How much longer does Mr Dobson want this to go on?

Smart Alex seeks stability

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: ALEX BARKER **AGE:** 26 **OCCUPATION:** FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Since graduating, Alex has found that life as a freelance journalist does not guarantee a regular income

Since graduating last June, Alex has had a number of short-term contracts, managing to find work most of the time. Although he has a mild disability, he is keen to be independent and would like to buy his own home.

Living in the Midlands, he can buy a flat suitable for his requirements for £27,000 to £30,000. With earnings of £8,000 to £10,000 per year, he could afford mortgage payments on such a property.

His parents, Florian and Brian, are keen to help out. Their thoughts were that perhaps they could buy a flat for him as a residential investment and then rent it out to him at an economic rent in lieu of the interest they would otherwise have received on the money used to buy the flat.

The adviser
Ray Boulger, technical manager at John Charcol, independent mortgage and financial advisers (0800 718191, www.johncharcol.co.uk).

The advice
The nature of Alex's earnings and the fact that he has only been working for a few months means it would not be feasible to obtain a mortgage with a good interest rate for him at the present time – assuming the mortgage was arranged in his name with no one else being involved.

Florian and Brian Barker want to help Alex but without putting the rest of the family at too much of a disadvantage, bearing in mind he is not their only child.

Using around £30,000 of their capital to buy a house might have that effect. Because it would be treated as their second property, they would be liable to pay capital gains tax on any profits over £6,800 made on the flat when it is sold. As they sometimes utilise all of their annual capital gains exemption this is a point not to be overlooked.

While the amounts involved are not huge, it would not be possible to claim Miras relief if the property was purchased as an investment.

The fact that Mr and Mrs Barker would be taxed on the rental income would merely put them in a similar position to the one they would have been in had they received interest.

An alternative approach would be to have the flat purchased in Alex's name with his parents acting as guarantors. Florian and Brian are ideally suited to do this as their own mortgage is now only £6,000.

It would be sensible to limit Alex's mortgage to 90 per cent in order to avoid paying mortgage indemnity premium and providing that Alex does not have any significant breaks in employment, he should be able to afford paying the mortgage from his own income.

I would recommend that a mortgage should be taken out with the Halifax, partly because Halifax will consider guarantor mortgages up to 90 per cent in situations such as this, but also because the Barkers' own mortgage is with the Halifax.

Among the deals currently available, Halifax is offering a 1.45 per cent discount to the end of April 2001, an effective payment rate of 5.5 per cent. On a £25,000 loan this means payments of £149.61 for a repayment loan or £107.25 on interest-only. There are no penalties and no arrangement fee.

Alternatively, Halifax is offering a rate of 5.35 per cent fixed to April 2004. Redemption penalties are on a six-year sliding scale, from 6 to 1 per cent. There is a £295 booking fee. Monthly repayments on a repayment mortgage are £147.58 or £104.32 on interest only.

A key factor in determining which is more suitable will be whether the stability in payments offered by a fixed rate is important to Alex, bearing in mind that there will be redemption penalties within the fixed-rate term.

Halifax gives a cashback of £250 towards the valuation fee and legal costs. As Alex's mortgage will be quite small, this is equivalent to a cashback of about 1 per cent.

One further benefit of arranging the mortgage in Alex's name is that he will obtain Miras relief. With a mortgage of around £25,000 this will provide a worthwhile saving.

It is difficult to be precise about which type of mortgage repayment method would be the most appropriate. However, a repayment mortgage or a with-profits endowment mortgage would be the two options worth considering.

Whatever type of mortgage repayment method Alex decides on I would strongly recommend that he has life insurance and critical illness cover for the mortgage. In view of his mild physical disability it is likely that there would be some exclusions on a critical illness policy.

However, there should be no problem in getting cover for most of the conditions normally included, including the main risks of heart attack, stroke and cancer.

In the event that his disability had an impact on the premium for life insurance and critical illness cover it would have a much smaller impact on the premium for an endowment policy than it would for a straight term policy. This is just one factor which may be relevant in determining which repayment method is more appropriate for Alex.

Finally, there is the question of pension provision. Normally my advice would be that one should start making pension provisions as soon as is possible. However, Alex is still young and is hoping to get a permanent job in the near future, which could well be with a company which offers its own company pension scheme.

I would recommend that Alex defers making any pension contribution for the time being as, with his current income situation, it would seem inappropriate at this stage to start making contributions to a regular premium personal pension.

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A prescription for good health

Our third article on personal welfare states looks at healthcare plans that pay for 'free' NHS treatment. By **Andy Couchman**

Treatment on the NHS is full of hidden costs that healthcare plans can cover

Eye tests, glasses, dental check-ups and treatment, and prescriptions. They are all examples of how our "free" NHS system can be expensive and, for those with families, the costs can be multiplied for each member of the family.

Unless your income is low enough to qualify you for government help, keeping healthy can be expensive. If you are unlucky enough to need hospital care, too, then while the treatment itself is likely to be free, the additional travel and other costs quickly add up.

Add in the occasional physiotherapy session and it is clear that free health is anything but. For many people who do not want, or cannot afford, private medical insurance, there is an alternative.

Healthcare cash plans, previously known as hospital cash funds, can trace their roots back to the 1870s. As industrial Britain grew, Victorian philanthropists helped set up hospital funds for workers who each paid 1d a week for the right to treatment at their local hospital.

They knew that unless they saved in this way, they would be unable to afford to pay for treatment, and no treatment meant no job; and no job meant that the whole family was put at risk.

Some Saturday funds, so called because subscriptions were collected on Saturdays – payday – are still in existence today. For many though, the coming of the new NHS in 1948 saw the old ideals of self-help swept aside and replaced by the all-embracing nationalism of the early post-war years.

Today, the sector has rebuilt itself and over six million people are now covered by healthcare cash plans. The market is worth around £250m a year and growing rapidly as politicians rediscover the third way that the Victorians foresaw over a century ago.

Insurance companies, too, are moving in, partly in response to private medical insurance premiums that continually outpace both inflation and some customers' ability to pay them, especially as they grow older.

BUPA, WPA and BCWA Healthcare all offer cash plans, as do commercial insurers such as Norwich Union Healthcare. Even retailers do, since Boots the Chemists launched a plan underwritten by Royal & SunAlliance last year.

Cash plans, with their fixed benefit limits, typically do not suffer high-cost inflation. Where once, long hospital stays meant fat payouts for those unlucky enough to be ill, nowadays it is the healthy who often benefit most. Many plans will pay half the cost of dental and optical care.

Anyone who has a six-monthly dental check-up, a biennial eye test and new glasses or contact lenses can already be some way to recouping their premiums. If they are unlucky enough to need hospital care too, the payout could easily result in quite a healthy addition to their bank balance.

Cash plans are still available from less than £1 a week, but most people now pay more and, as many benefits go up in line with the premium level paid, payouts can be large if you choose a more expensive plan. Typically, people will pay £20 - 30 a *month*, but for that a whole family can be covered.

HSA Healthcare is the largest provider, with around half the market, and offers plans from £1.60 a week up to £12.80 a week. While the cheapest plan would only pay up to £33 a year for dental treatment, the most expensive version would pay up to £264. In both cases, the payout would be limited to half the cost and no tax is payable on the payment.

A big attraction for older people is that premiums do not go up with age, and for those with families, children are often included free, although some benefits are lower.

A straightforward claim can be paid out in less than a week – something that puts many larger insurers to shame. But you will need to keep receipts and many plans only reimburse half your costs, although that does vary between providers and between individual benefits.

On average, 80p in each pound of premiums is paid out in claims and, as most providers are owned by their members, if they do make a healthy profit, it is medical charities that are likely to benefit. Many cash plans are regionally based so any charitable donations are likely to benefit the local community and hospitals.

Cash plans are not an alternative to private medical insurance. The sums paid out are usually small and are unlikely to be large enough to pay private medical bills that can run into hundreds of pounds a day. There is usually a blanket exclusion for all pre-existing conditions, and most benefits are likely to be subject to a six-month qualifying period before you can benefit – longer if related to pregnancy, old age or mental illness, for example.

The British Health Care Association (BHCA) represents most cash plan providers with the exception of the largest two, HSA Healthcare and Westfield, and commercial providers such as Norwich Union Healthcare.

BHCA says that since 1979 the movement has seen its premium income rise from just £16m, and has more than doubled in the last six years. BHCA members now pay over £2m a year to charitable causes.

(To get an idea of the annual benefits that a weekly premium of £1 will provide, and which usually covers the whole family, the BHCA has provided figures for the box below.)

Many insurers pay even more benefits. HSA Healthcare now has 21 different benefits, while Westfield has up to 17. Norwich Union Healthcare takes a different approach – it offers up to 12 benefits but they include up to four prescriptions a year, half the cost of private minor surgery by a GP and a 24-hour GP helpline.

There is a wide difference between benefits and premiums between providers so the advice, as always, is to shop around and make sure that you get the benefits you want at a premium you can afford. Many providers deal direct, or you could ask your financial adviser to do the shopping round for you, although many have little experience of these plans.

For a list of healthcare cash plans, call the British Health Care Association on 0113 232 0903. Other cash plan providers include: HSA Healthcare on 0800 150 150; Westfield on 0114 250 2000; Norwich Union Healthcare on 0870 900 1008. Andy Couchman is publishing editor of Health-Care Insurance Report

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INTERNET INVESTOR

ROBIN AMLÔT

THIS TIME next week, we will all be digesting or, depending on how we have been hit by it, indigesting the Budget. Whatever comes out of Tuesday's performance by Gordon Brown, history is already delivering its verdict on him. He may be balancing the Government's books but this Chancellor is one of life's complicators, increasing the number of taxes we all have to pay and broadening the circumstances under which we have to pay them. But could you do any better?

Short of winning the next election, you may now install yourself in a virtual Number 11, Downing Street, thanks to a joint venture by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and the Bristol-based Institute for Learning and Research Technology. Their virtual-economy model is based on the Treasury's own economic model and is a development of the IFS's past website offering which allowed you to "Be Your Own Chancellor".

This new model is actually based around the Chancellor's Downing Street house and office. On the ground floor is the Chancellor's Office, with an introduction to the virtual economy; the first floor has case studies about the impact of changes in the economy on people, business and governments; the second floor is dedicated to the different economic variables in the model with advice, explanations, worksheets and relevant economic theories; the third floor is a library of economic theory and a glossary; and the fourth floor is the economic model itself, where you can change what you like and see the effect on the economy.

When you have had your fun and wrecked the virtual economy by juggling too vigorously with tax rates, while you may not agree with what Gordon Brown does, you may have new respect for the problems facing Chancellors of all political hues!

A couple of weeks ago, I was telling you about Virgin.net's plans to offer free Internet access. In addition to this, it has now announced plans to offer an online personal finance channel. It is unlikely to appear for a couple of months, but the channel will include interactive facilities such as mortgage and tax calculators, and independent advice on investments, mortgages and pensions. Given Virgin's position as a provider of financial services, any advice claiming to be independent will have to be seen clearly to be exactly that.

For the time being, if you want to use an independent financial adviser but don't know how to get in touch with one, check out IFA Promotion's website. The organisation exists mainly to signpost consumers towards IFAs. You fill in an online form and you will be e-mailed the details of three IFAs nearest to you, together with a voucher for a free initial consultation.

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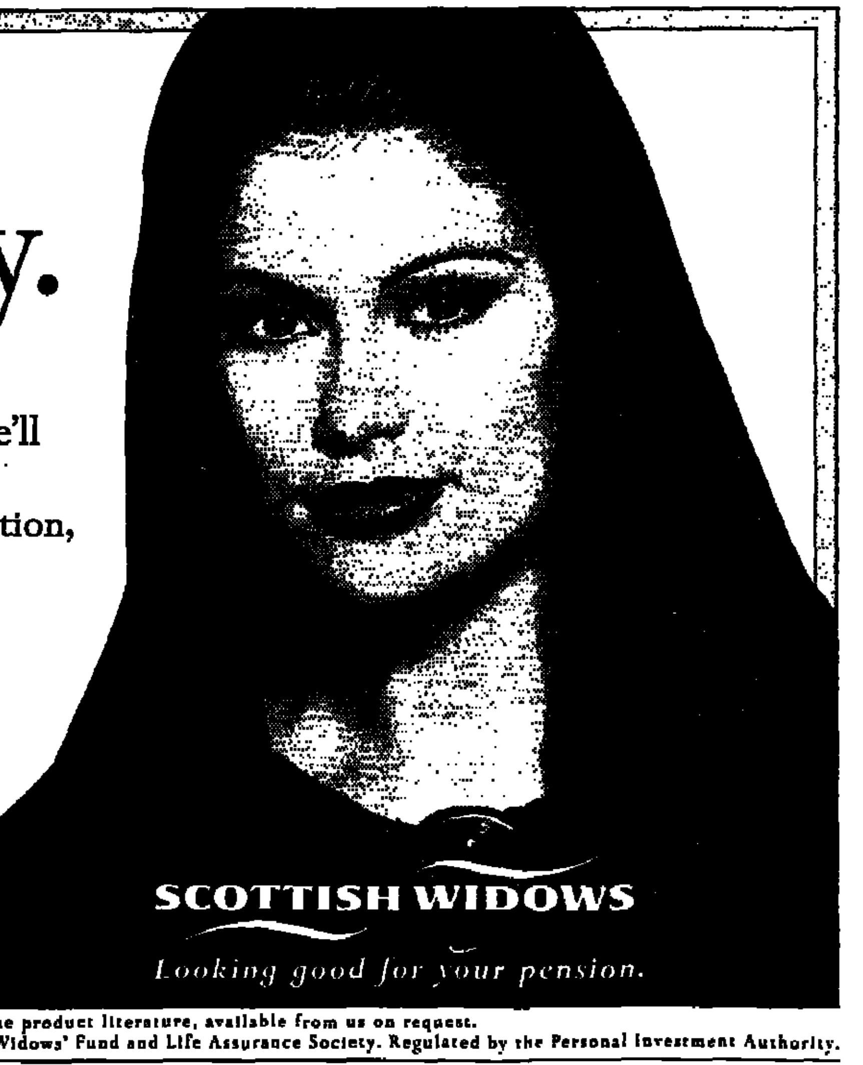

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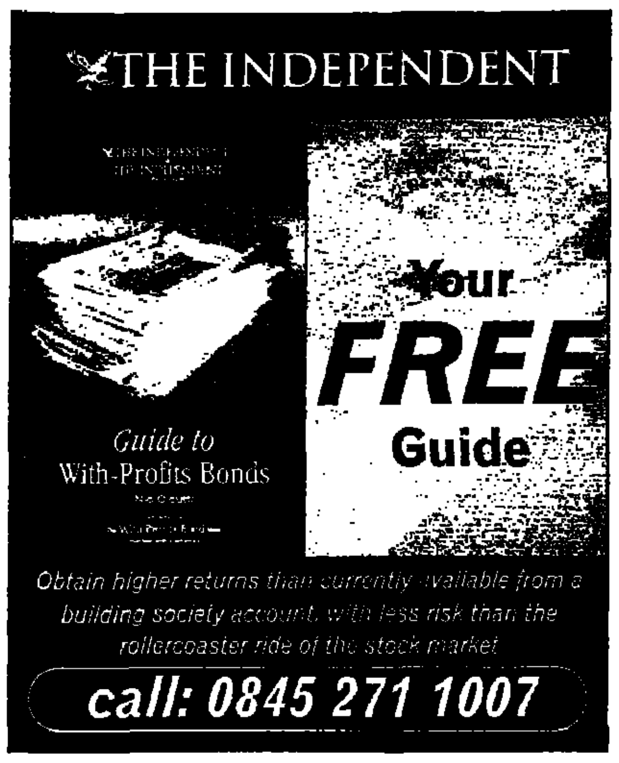
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BRIAN TORA

Value has never been trendier, especially when it is prefixed by 'shareholder'

NEVER LET it be said that the world of investment is not fashionable. We embrace fashion in a way that can be quite disconcerting to those who believe we are all pin-striped suits and brogues.

The Square Mile buzzes with trends. Remember when investment professional were value investors? Value is still a buzz-word, however, especially with "shareholder" in front. It is what 1990s management is all about.

Stand up as the chief executive and announce you will be delivering shareholder value and immediately all the analysts present will be looking at which subsidiaries you will be selling and trying to calculate how much money you can return by way of a special dividend. What with that and share buybacks it is no wonder we have too much money chasing too little stock.

It is interesting to look through the list of recent special dividend declarations. Two new banks, Woolwich and Halifax, are returning money to their shareholders while Royal & Sun Alliance has joined the queue this week.

And Unilever, one of Europe's leading companies, has a cash pile so big that, were it to be floated as a separate company, it would be big enough for inclusion in the FTSE index by merit of size alone.

You cannot help but wonder if the reason for this sudden popularity of special dividends is that these companies cannot come up with any convincing reasons on how to spend the money.

But why is Royal & SunAlliance not doing more? The company is operating in an industry where consolidation is set to continue. Yet its results were accompanied with the announcement that it is to sell the US life operation.

To be fair it has been active in acquiring operations elsewhere. Perhaps it would be unwise, therefore, to consider that the firm may have been raising money just to enhance shareholder value.

The 48p special dividend was well received by the market, but what would Royal & Sun-Alliance do if a major acquisition target sailed across its bows. The company has said that it can always return to shareholders for financial muscle, so perhaps we must accept that delivering shareholder value is yet another short-term consideration. After all, imagine sitting on all that cash and not finding something to do with it swiftly. You can almost hear the howls from the investment community.

Personally I would look elsewhere if I were to back the insurance sector. Perhaps CGU appears a better bet. But both should benefit from any upturn in rates, which Royal & Sun Alliance believes will now take place. CGU has a little more street cred, but you won't get a hefty special dividend later this spring.

Brian Tora is head of the asset management division of Greig Middleton

BEST MORTGAGES

MORTGAGES

	Telephone number	% Rate and period	Max LTV %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption Penalty
FIXED RATES Without redemption tie-in						
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.39% for 2 years	90%	£95	Refund of valuation fee-no MIP	1st 2 years : 3-4months' interest
Newcastle BS	0191 2442498	5.19% to 31.3.02	90%	£245	Advances up to 85% - no MIP	To 31.3.02: 5% of o/s balance
Hinckley & Rugby BS	0800 774499	5.24% for 5 years	80%	£250	No high lending fee(MIP)	1st 5 years:3% of advance
FIXED RATES With redemption tie-in						
Northern Rock	0845 6050500	3.49% to 1.4.01	95%	£295	Free ASU for 6 months. Advs up to 90%-no MIP	1st 6 yrs: 8-9% of sum repaid
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	3.90% for 3 years	95%	£295	-	1st 5 yrs:3% of sum repaid
Bristol & West	0800 119855	5.25% to 1.3.03	90%	£295	For advances up to 85%-no MIP	To 28.2.04:4.5% of sum repaid
CAPPED RATES						
Bristol & West	0800 119955	4.59% to 1.4.01	90%	£295	Advances up to 85% - no MIP	To 31.3.04 : 4.5% of sum repaid
Hanley Economic BS	01782 255150	4.95% To 31.1.02	95%	£295	-	1st 5 years:120 days interest
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	5.69% for 4 years	95%	£295	-	1st 4 yrs: 6% of sum repaid
FIRST TIME BUYERS (Variable unless shown)						
Woolwich	0845 454545	3.99% for 1 year	95%	£100	2.5% adv rebated & up to 90%-no MIP	1st 5 years:6 mths int. [illegible]
Coventry BS	0345 665522	3.55% to 31.5.01	95%	£295	Advances up to 90%-no MIP	To 31.5.04:6-12mths int.
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	4.20% for 3 years	95%	-	£300 cash rebate.	1st 5 years:8.07% of sum repaid[illegible]
VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES						
Scarborough BS	0990 133149	0.60% for 1 year	85%	£250	-	1st 5yrs: 6.29% of sum repaid
Northern Rock	0845 6050500	3.30% to 1.4.01	95%	-	Refund valn,6 mnths free ASU & to 90%-no MIP	1st 6 yrs:3-5%of sum repaid
West Bromwich BS	0121 5805404	4.45% for 3 years	85%	£295	£250 rebate,free MIP & free ASU for 1 year	1st 5 yrs:5%of sum repaid

BEST BORROWING RATES

PERSONAL LOANS

UNSECURED	Telephone	APR %	Fixed monthly payments on £5K over 3 yrs: With insurance	Without insurance
Northern Rock	0845 6050808	9.3% H	£181.67	£164.19
Phone A Loan(Yorkshire Bank)	0800 1398898	11.9%	£183.40	£164.61
Tesco	0845 6006016	12.0%	£185.04	£164.81

OVERDRAFTS

	Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Authorised APR	Unauthorised % pm	Unauthorised APR
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.95%	12.00%	2.20%	29.8%
Nationwide BS	0500 302010	Flexaccount	0.97%	12.2%	2.10%	28.3%
Abbey National	0800 7317774	Bank	1.05%	13.4%	2.20%	29.9%

CREDIT CARDS

	Telephone	Card Type	Introductory Apr	Introductory Until	Standard Apr	Int-free period	Fee
Co-operative Bank	0800 126000	Advantage Visa	5.9%	July 99	13.8%	0 days	Nil
People'sBankConn	0500 551055	Mastercard/Visa	6.9%	1.8.99	17.9%	56 days	Nil
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	6.9%	1.1.00	17.9%	56 days	Nil
GOLD CARDS							
Co-operative Bank	0800 404070	Base Rate Visa	N/A	N/A	10.04%	46 days	£120
Co-operative Bank	0800 126000	Adv Gold Visa	5.9%	July 99	13.8%	0 days	Nil
People'sBankCon	0500 551055	Mastercard/Visa	6.9%	1.8.99	17.9%	56 days	Nil

STORE CARDS

	Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	Payment by direct debit % APR	Payment by other methods % pm	Payment by other methods APR
John Lewis	Via store	1.39%	18.0%	1.39%	18.0%
Marks & Spencer	01244 681681	1.93%	25.7%	1.99%	26.7%
Bhs	Via store	1.95%	26.0%	2.15%	29.0%

A – Minimum age 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers
APR – Annualised percentage rate
ASU – Accident, sickness and unemployment insurance
B+C – Buildings and contents insurance
H – Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged
LTV – Loan to value
MIP – Mortgage indemnity premium
N – Introductory rate for a limited period
U – Unemployment insurance
B – Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System
F – Fixed rate (all other rates variable)
N – Net rate
P – By post only

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.
Source: *MONEYFACTS 01603 476476*

* If completion is before 30.4.98
All rates subject to change without notice.
Source: *MONEYFACTS 01603 476476* — *4 March 1999*

BEST SAVINGS RATES

	Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest [illegible]
INSTANT ACCESS						
Tesco	0845 7104010	Tesco Savings	Instant	£1	4.50%	Year
Woolwich	0800 222200	Card Saver	Instant	£50	4.75%	Year
Portman BS	0800 807080	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.25%	Year
Teachers' BS	01202 843550	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.30%	Yr
NO NOTICE POSTAL ACCOUNTS						
Egg	0845 6008292	Savings	Post/Phone	£1	6.00%	Year
Virgin Direct	0845 6101020	Deposit	Telephone	£1	5.75%	Year
Sun Bank	01438 744500	Direct Postal	Postal	£500	5.60%	Year
Safeway	0800 995995	Direct Savings	Post/Phone	£1,000	5.70%	Year
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS						
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	POST-tel 30	30 Day (P)	£5,000	6.25%	Year
Scarborough BS	01723 500616	40 Day Access	40 Day	£1,000	6.05%	Year
Northern Rock	0845 6006767	Save Direct 50	50 Day (B)	£5,000	6.00%	Year
Legal & General	0500 111290	90 Direct	90 Day (B)	£10,000	6.15%	Year
CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Sun Bank	01438 744505	HICA	None	£1,000	4.25%	Year
AMS Bank	0181 4472040	HICA	Instant	£5,000	5.25%	Qly
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0800 0738738	Albion Cheque	Instant	£9,000	5.60%	Year
Investec Bank (UK)	0171 5974131	HICA 5000	None	£5,000	4.75%	Mly
FIXED RATE BONDS						
Abbey National	0800 100801	Fixed Rate Bond 3	1.9.99	£2,000	5.75% F	Maturity
Investec Bank (UK)	0171 5974131	Year Bond	1 Year	£2,001	5.50% F	Maturity
Woolwich	0800 222200	Fixed Rate Bond	2 Year	£500	5.25% F	Year
Woolwich	0800 222200	Fixed Rate Bond	3 Year	£500	5.25% F	Year
FIRST TESSAS						
Skipton BS	0990 443040		5 Year	£3,000	7.40%	Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836		5 Year	£100	6.85%	Year
Julian Hodge Bank	01222 220800		5 Year	£250	6.75%	Year
Sun Bank	01438 744505		5 Year	£1,000	6.75%	Year
FOLLOW-ON TESSAS						
Barclays Bank	0800 400100		5 Year	£9,000	7.00%	Year
Sun Bank	01438 744505		5 Year	£3,001	6.75%	Year
Julian Hodge Bank	01222 220800		5 Year	£3,001	6.75%	Year
Legal & General Bank	0500 111200		5 Year	£9,000	6.60%	Year
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)						
AIG Life	0800 393598		1 Year	£15,000	4.30% FN	Year
GE Financial Assur.	0181 3808388		2 Year	£10,000	3.90% FN	Year
Countrywide Assured	0800 838020		3 Year	£10,000	4.00% FN	Year
Countrywide Assured	0800 838020		4 Year	£10,000	4.30% FN	Year
Countrywide Assured	0800 838020		5 Year	£10,000	4.10% FN	Year
OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)						
Newcastle Bank(Gibraltar)	00350 76168	Nova Access	None	£1,000	5.50%	Year
First Active Bank CI	01481 710400	Offshore Demand	None	£10,000	5.80%	Year
First Active Bank CI	01481 710400	60 Day Notice	60 Day	£25,000	6.10%	Year
Northern Rock Guernsey	01481 714600	Offshore 90	90 Day	£10,000	5.95%	Year

ADVERTISEMENT PROMOTION

Tony Mundella found all the Pep information he needed in a Goldfish Guide

Peps uncovered

Goldfish Guides are written by independent experts and aim to help readers understand their choices in clear and simple language

Where can you go for unbiased information about Peps? Get a Goldfish Guide for facts, not for a hard sell. At this time of year it can seem as if everyone is trying to sell you a Pep. Investment companies are spending millions on advertising to win people over to their products. But what if you want more information before you decide if a Pep is right for you in the first place?

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"A work colleague said one of the other Goldfish Guides had been brilliant when he had been comparing all the different vacuum cleaners and that the company had started producing financial guides as well."

Tony ordered the Goldfish Guide to Peps and says it was just what he needed. "I liked the flow chart that helps you work out if you need a Pep, and if so, which sort to choose. My wife and I now understand the subject a lot better, which is just what we wanted. We're also planning to refer back to the Guide towards the end of the tax year."

Goldfish Guides are written by independent experts and aim to help readers understand their choices in clear and simple language.

> **'My wife and I now understand the subject a lot better, which is just what we wanted'**

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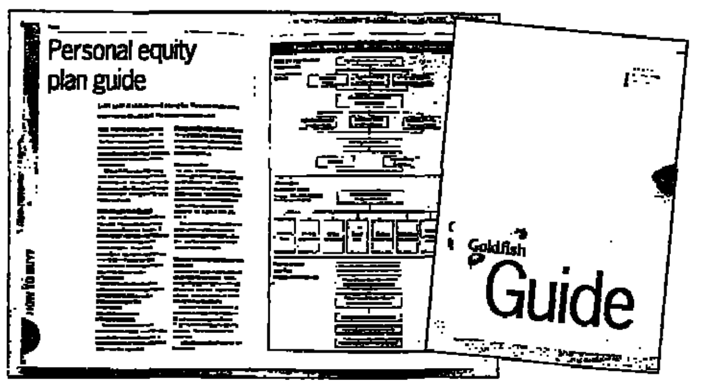

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هكذا من الأصل

UK Equity Growth

Fund	Launch	Min Inv £	Fund Size £M	Offer Price	Latest 1Yr Perf	Rank
AbbeyAsts&Earnings	11/82	1000	63	400.70	91.86	130
AbbeyEthical	09/87	1000	42	100.80	89.86	140
‡AbbeyNatl&PUkGth	11/72	500	98	143.40	100.62	58
‡AberdeenProlSpecialSits	02/82	500	160	192.03	94.70	118
‡AberdeenProlUkGth	08/85	500	397	88.34	102.69	40
‡ABNAMROUkGth	12/86	500	53	380.06	101.62	60
‡AllchurchesAmity	03/88	500	35	118.64	92.45	129
‡Alliance&LeicesterCapGth	02/96	1000	232	82.74	100.73	56
‡AXAEquity&LawBritExcel	07/87	1000	51	142.10	97.65	95
‡AXASunLifeUkGth	05/85	4000	107	145.80	98.91	80
BankOfIrelandCapitalGth	10/84	1000	3	218.70	109.48	5
‡BarclaysCapital	10/57	1000	443	225.10	98.03	89
BaringUkGth	11/87	1000	64	177.80	102.65	41
‡BGUkGth	11/72	1000	296	682.40	99.84	71
‡BritanniaBalGth	01/84	500	325	218.03	98.69	84
‡BWDEquityGth	01/86	500	5	133.72	100.49	61
CanlifeGeneral	08/71	2000	200	340.40	100.10	69
CavendishOpportunities	02/88	10000	5	232.80	83.97	139
‡CCMGth	12/68	500	33	812.50	94.98	116
‡CCMSpecialSituations	03/71	500	67	187.10	94.45	119
‡CFGHCLP Equity	12/97	1000	6	118.97	104.06	28
‡CGUPPTUkGth	03/84	500	6	293.05	97.98	90
CMCommunityGth	11/94	25000	0	10680.00	103.04	35
‡CISUKGth	09/89	500	1448	327.80	98.67	72
CityFinclAsts	04/88	500	2	102.97	100.29	66
‡ClericalMedPedigreeGth	09/96	1000	109	100.45	98.88	105
ClericalMedSpecialSits	12/88	1000	48	88.88	94.36	120
‡ColonialTop50	10/95	1000	23	93.59	102.39	44
‡CreditSuisseFellowship	07/86	1000	91	140.20	93.63	125
DresdnerRCMEr	07/66	2500	8	1083.87	105.49	20
‡DresdnerRCMUkGth	05/82	500	113	1099.20	110.96	4
‡DresdnerRCMUkMidCap	09/90	500	44	599.92	111.30	3
‡EdinburghSalarysFirstGIA	03/96	2000	49		100.54	60
‡EquitableSpecialSituations	12/84	500	63	108.58	95.32	114
‡ExeterCapitalGth	04/89	1000	33	164.33	95.16	115
‡FamilySafetyNetStockmarket	01/95	100000	25	152.30	102.78	38
FidelityInstFdsUK	05/96	300000	178		101.87	46
‡FidelityRecovery	11/87	1000	70		82.32	150
‡FidelitySpecialSituations	12/79	1000	872		91.63	131
‡FidelityUkGth	06/95	1000	685		95.39	112
‡FiveArrowsUKPfl	12/94	1000	84	94.73	97.30	96
‡FlemingGth	11/87	10000	36	53.06	99.82	74
FlemingSelectSpecUkEquity	07/95	100000	67	180.50	105.61	19
FlemingSelectUkEquity	07/95	100000	29	175.00	106.43	13
‡FraminglonUkGth	12/92	500	13	96.89	101.67	47
FramsHouseCapital	07/73	1000	3	459.03	98.76	83
‡FriendsProvStewardship	06/84	1000	488	569.40	96.55	108
‡FriendsProvUKFocus	11/82	1000	40	65.19	97.89	93
‡FriendsProvUkGth	11/69	1000	403	308.90	98.83	82
GAEquityGth	12/85	500	27	313.40	80.45	137
GartmoreMastertrust	06/87	100000	171	127.95	99.39	75

UK Equity Income

UK Growth & Income

UK Equity & Bond

UK Equity & Bond Income

UK Gilt

UK Fixed Interest

UK Smaller Companies

Managed Fund

International Equity Growth

International Equity Income

International Equity & Bond

International Fixed Interest

Investment Trust Units

Europe

North America

Far East Excluding Japan

Far East Including Japan

Japan

Emerging Markets

Money Market

Property

Commodity & Energy

Fund of Funds

Index Bear

Balanced Managed

This information is listed by sector, not by company, in order to allow investors to define the comparitive performance of their trusts relative to others.

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Top five performing funds of each sector are highlighted in bold. All funds are more than one year old. Fund sizes taken on the first day of the previous month. Fund performances are calculated on an Offer to Bid price basis with net income reinvested at Xd date and illustrate the value of £100 original investment.
Life Funds that are Closed to New Business have been excluded.

‡ denotes a fund available through a Manager's PEP scheme.

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Richard and Nicola, place your bets

While any form of investment is always a gamble, particularly in today's financial market, some experts are sticking their necks out. And two of the biggest names in the business are putting their money where their very big mouths are. **By Tony Lyons**

The most hotly contested argument among investment groups at present concerns the relative merits of actively-managed funds versus trackers.

So fierce is the debate that it descends at times into farce. As evidence of this, last year Richard Branson of Virgin even placed a £6,000 bet with Nicola Horlick, of SocGen Asset Management, with the winner pledging to give the money to a charity of their choice.

The high-level bet was that a £6,000 investment in Virgin's FTSE All Share tracker will outperform Ms Horlick's UK growth fund over a three-year period.

"A third of the way through, and the Virgin investment is now worth some £6,033 – against £5,612 for the SocGen fund, after all charges," according to Tony Wood who works for Virgin Direct.

While active fund managers pick the companies they buy and sell using different investment criteria, tracker funds do away with this selection. They either mirror or buy all the shares in a chosen index.

So, will employing a professional fund manager, who has spent years honing his or her investment skills, give a better payback than an investment in a passively-managed fund such as a tracker, where little fund management is needed?

Performance results over recent years show that most active managers fail to outperform the market. There's an old adage in the City, the so-called "72/25 rule". This states that at any given time, three out of four fund managers will produce a worse return for you than if you had put your money into the FTSE 100 or the FTSE All Share, the two main stockmarket indices.

The underperformance of the majority of active managers is worse when charges are taken into account. The most popular tracker, or passive funds, typically have initial charges of less than 1 per cent and annual management fees of under 0.75 per cent.

For example, Legal & General, who have the second largest tracker, valued at over £1bn, has no initial charge at all and an annual charge of 0.5 per cent.

Horlick: backing growth

Compare this with an actively managed fund that typically has an initial charge of 5 per cent or more, along with annual charges of 1.5 per cent. This means that in the first year of investment, it has to beat the index by well over 6 per cent in order to match the performance of a popular tracker.

Recent research conducted for Virgin Direct, the manager of the largest UK tracker fund, has fuelled the argument. It looked at the past 20 years' experience of balanced funds, the sector that includes all UK unit trust trackers, as well as those actively managed funds whose aim is a combination of growth and income.

Its main findings not only confirmed that most funds failed to beat the index over any period, but also that those active funds that achieved a top-quartile place over any five-year period subsequently lost their place at the top over the next few years.

"It is the shares within the FTSE 100 and All Share indices that have shown the greatest growth," says Tony Wood. "Smaller and medium sized companies that have the potential to get bigger are where active managers most like to invest. But these have failed to keep pace with the UK's largest blue-chips."

Last year, while the FTSE 100 rose by almost 17 per cent, and the FTSE All Share went up nearly 13 per cent, the majority of medium and smaller companies failed to keep up. Trackers will always do slightly less well than their chosen index, because of their charges, even if these are extremely low.

Branson: £6,000 bet

As Bob Yerbury of Perpetual explains: "The more active a manager, the worse the performance appears to have been in these markets.

"Last year, for example, if you picked stocks outside the index, it was a disaster. If your analysis at the start of 1998 was that blue-chips were over-valued, you then found that it was all one-way investment traffic in favour of these companies during the year."

However, the way the stock market has moved over the past couple of years also carries inherent dangers, according to active managers. Companies in the FTSE 100 now account for almost 80 per cent of the whole stockmarket. In fact, the combined value of the UK's 15 largest companies amounts to nearly half the total value of all shares listed on the Stock Exchange.

This concentration on just a small number of companies has never been seen before. "This polarisation of the market is very unusual," says John Hatherly of M&G. These companies are all in the financial, telecom, petrochemical and pharmaceutical sectors. So there are risks if these sectors suddenly go into free-fall.

"Some trackers could be dangerous," says John Ross of Fidelity. "They are meant to be for the more risk-averse investor, but in volatile markets, if these 15 companies were to fall out of favour, their performance could plummet."

There is a feeling in financial circles that much of this concentration on large companies has happened owing to the very popularity of tracker funds.

At least 20 per cent of all stockmarket investment being done today is via tracker funds that invest on behalf of pension funds and other financial institutions, as well as private investors.

The actual amount may be much higher, as there are believed to be a significant number of other funds shadowing the indices while charging active management fees.

Since the beginning of this year, there are signs that companies outside the FTSE 100 could be beginning to outperform the blue-chips. And while these may prove to just be straws in the wind, it could also be a return to the pattern of stockmarket activity seen before the current bull-market which started in 1994, when medium and smaller companies outpaced their larger rivals.

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The model of a very modern mortgage

The traditional approach to home loans has had its day. **By Iain Morse**

NOT SO long both our working and financial lives seemed so predictable. We expected to work to 60 or 65, then hang our hats on a pension.

Mortgages were arranged with this in mind. Loans were structured on the premise that borrowers would enjoy regular, predictable and fairly secure income. Traditional "interest-only" mortgages, accompanied by with-profit endowments, had the great advantage to borrowers of evenly spreading the cost of house purchase.

The disadvantage of these loans, as many of us are now discovering, is their inflexibility. Many carry penalties for early redemption.

For example, Bradford & Bingley's four-year loan, which is capped at 5.9 per cent, has a penalty of 4 per cent of the amount that is outstanding on redemption during the capped period.

Elsewhere, Northern Rock offers a loan discounted by 2.5 per cent to just 4.45 per cent. The snag is a sliding scale of redemption penalties ranging between 5 and 3 per cent of any amount repaid within the first six years.

Meanwhile, our working lives have altered. We can now expect to change employer, employment status, and career several times before what may only be partial retirement.

Bonuses, lump sums, redundancy packages – these days we get plenty of opportunity to reduce or pay off our mortgages early. There are compelling financial arguments for doing this if it is possible.

For example: if you have a £100,000 repayment loan running over 25 years, at a current variable rate of 7.49 per cent. The total interest to be paid on this loan would be approximately £405,580.

Flexible friends: John and Penny Dablin *Martyn Hayhow*

But if you have a flexible mortgage , and find you can repay capital of £10,000 after just one year, you will save £40,558 in interest payments, and lop 5 years and 7 months off the term of the mortgage.

John and Penny Dablin illustrate just how a flexible mortgage can meet our changing circumstances. John, aged 52, is not too far away from retirement as a software engineer. Penny, a part time personal assistant, has a variable income stream.

Yet the couple have a 18-year mortgage, way beyond the period when they would ideally like it to be paid off .

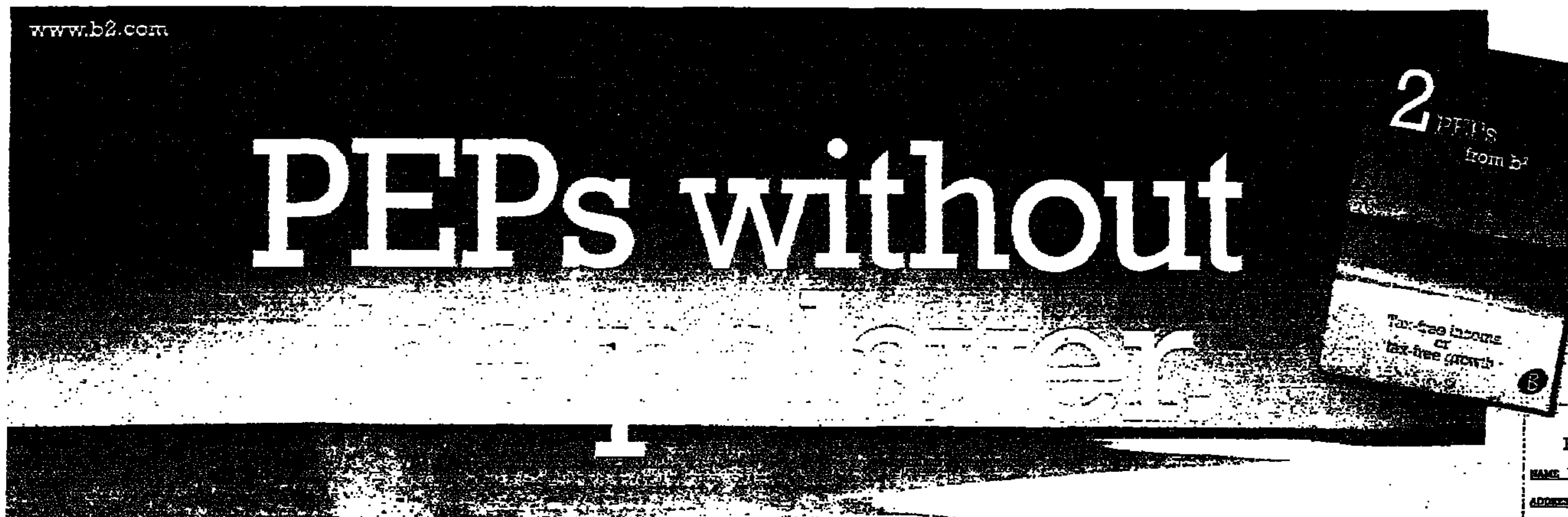
The solution lay in opting for a flexible mortgage. While the notional target date to pay off the loan on their four-bedroom semi in Aylesbury remains 18 years, in practice they aim to have it repaid well before then.

"We currently pay about £550 a month," says Penny," which is about £150 more than we need to pay were the loan to run over its original 18 year term."

The couple used to have a traditional mortgage with a large former building society until they read about the option of having interest calculated on their loans daily rather than annually. Because over-payments can be take out again if needed, they transferred about £10,000 from another high interest cheque account into the mortgage one.

"We now use our mortgage account as the high interest account we had before. That means that we are effectively earning a higher rate of interest on our money," Penny adds.

The Independent is offering a free 36-page Guide to Flexible Mortgages, with tips on all aspects of home loans, including how much you can borrow, how to repay the mortgage and a list of useful names and telephone numbers at the end. For your copy of the guide, sponsored by First Active, call 0800 550551.



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Not just a case of extremes

Investing in the stock market isn't about either risk-taking or playing safe – it's about a balancing act of the two. By Nic Cicutti

Whenever the subject of investment is broached, a typical assumption is that investors will either be looking for a relatively risk-free investment or that it must involve highly speculative mixture of shares.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. As Fiona Price and Christine Ross, the two financial advisers on this page, suggest, investment can involve a combination of different options including both low- and high-risk funds.

It is this combination which allows investors to feel reassured that they will not lose out heavily (if at all) should markets should go down the plughole – but with the potential for decent returns if things go well.

How does one combine the two? The starting point is to work out exactly what level of jeopardy to funds you are prepared to accept. At one end of the spectrum are bank or building society accounts – measuring one on our risk scale.

At the other end, an eight on the same scale, are emerging market funds, or even, at 10, the capital shares of a split-capital investment trust. Somewhere in the middle are with-profits endowment funds of one sort or another.

Constructing a sensible, low-risk portfolio starts with setting aside a proportion of funds in some easy access account, say with a building society. This should be up to 25 per cent of your money, or two to three months' spending money.

Then, up to 50 per cent could go into with-profits bonds, a relatively safe investment which holds a variety of assets, ranging from equities to property, fixed interest funds and even cash. This money will deliver safe, if not incredible returns. What is more, once an annual bonus is added, it can rarely be taken away.

That leaves 25 per cent or more money. With this, you can afford to take a few risks. For instance, you might want to pick out a few UK or European unit or investment trusts, or set up an index-tracking PEP (either in the top 100 UK shares or in the FTSE All Share).

This part of the portfolio is what will add spice to the safer investment mix of with-profits bonds and cash. If you were prepared to try out something even hotter, it might make sense to take 5 or even 10 per cent of your total funds and look to something which offers the potential for more aggressive growth.

Among the areas worth considering are the technology sector, where the ideas, industries, drugs and mechanical processes of tomorrow are being developed today.

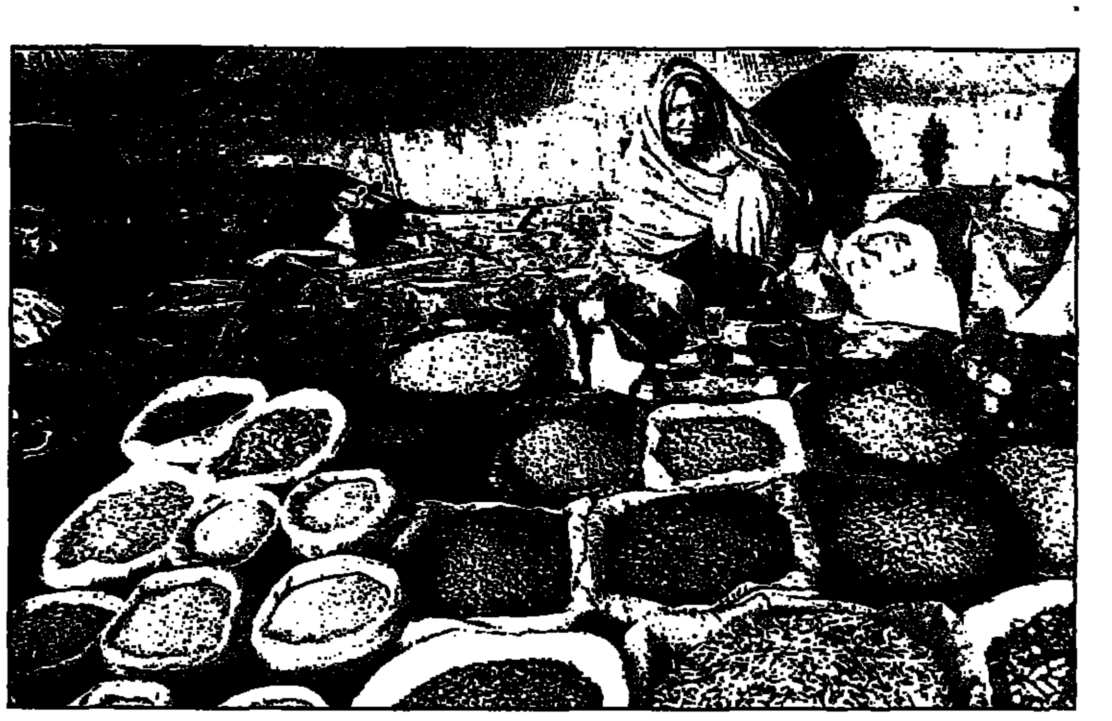
Alternatively, for contrarians, there are Pacific Rim economies, including Japan, bombed out at present but (claim some experts) due for a revival in the next few years. Or you might feel that the Russian economy has sunk so low that there are buying opportunities even there.

In each of these cases, the money you are investing is money you should be prepared to lose. That may happen, but if it does, the vast bulk has been stashed away in a much safer place.

The key word here is balance. By constructing a portfolio in this manner, including cash, low-risk with-profits bonds and pooled equity funds, you have raised your overall risk profile from a four to a five, six, maybe even a seven on the scale discussed earlier. At the same time, the vast bulk of your funds are still relatively secure.

In today's uncertain investment climate, that is not necessarily a bad thing at all.

To explain with-profits bonds, one of the "asset classes" described in this article, 'The Independent' has produced a free, 24-page Guide to With-Profits Bonds. Written by Nic Cicutti, this paper's personal finance editor, the guide examines the arguments for and against investing in bonds. It discusses the tax implications and where to buy a bond. For your copy of the guide, sponsored by The With-Profits Bond Shop, call 0845 2711007



Just like mixing spices, combining your investments will produce the richest rewards

Attack or defence?

Iain Morse on the best approaches to the volatile 1999 market

WILL THE last pre-millennial year offer investors a comfortable ride? Turbulent stock markets and falling interest rates made last year memorable, but not very comfortable.

Things don't look as if they are easing up in 1999 either. While we can hope for an easier time, it may be in vain. Interest rates look set to fall further, which will reduce the real rate of return on cash deposits.

Nor is there a clear sign that stockmarkets will stabilise to compensate investors with higher returns on equities. After all, rates are being cut as a means of stimulating economic activity, and bringing about recovery, the effect of which may take time to filter through into share values..

On the other hand, periods of market uncertainty can leave shares looking undervalued and create real opportunities for those prepared to take a risk with their cash.

All of this presents investors with a stark choice; go defensive and risk losing out if the market rises sharply, or go aggressive and risk losing if the market falls.

Christine Ross of Willis National

With the UK stockmarket displaying a schizophrenic personality – one minute bear, the next bull – many investors will wonder where the best opportunities lie. Add to this a sell-by date for Tessas and PEPs and confusion could set in.

Defensive portfolio
Asset classes: Tessas, corporate bond funds, with-profit bonds.

Tessas are tax-free cash deposits, accounts running over five years to maturity, which will let you shelter up to £9,000 if commenced before 5 April. Nat West is still offering their fixed rate Tessa paying 6.4 per cent – this includes a "feeder" account – which is excellent value.

Corporate bonds are effectively loans to companies in the same way that gilts are loans to the government. Unless you are an expert, the best way to buy these is through a unit trust where a fund manager makes decisions on your behalf.

Use a PEP to shelter your bonds and receive income tax free. Two of the best providers are M&G – with lowest charges in the market – and Aberdeen Prolific.

With-profit bonds issued by large insurance companies like Clerical Medical offer security of capital against all but the most serious market melt down. Returns are given in annual "bonus rates", and these funds are intended to smooth out fluctuations in the market.

Aggressive portfolio
Asset classes: unit and investment trusts in Japan and the Far East, European smaller companies, and UK enterprise funds.

Any aggressive portfolio must focus on "recovery areas" where shares look undervalued. The bravest investor might buy Japan and the Far East, where Pacific Rim countries offer tremendous opportunities over the long term. But be careful, as some investors lost as much as 80 per cent of their money last year. Europe offers some great opportunities and is my favourite market at present.

Closer to home, Schroder's UK Enterprise fund invests into a narrow range of larger company shares – about 50 in all, against an average of between 80 and 150 for most rival UK funds. Enterprise currently holds shares in firms like Vodafone and Asda and aims to benefit from any market recovery.

Fiona Price of Fiona Price & Partners

This is a year when investor sentiment might go either way – choosing defensive or aggressive portfolios against a background of sometimes confusing signals from the market.

Defensive portfolio
Asset classes: National Savings, Tessas, distribution bonds, with-profits and income funds.

There are only two ways to build a defensive portfolio; either put all your cash into very cautious investments, or split the portfolio between very cautious, cautious and medium risk categories of investment.

Very cautious is a category covering short- to medium-term needs. Hold an amount equivalent to at least three months' normal expenditure on deposit in an emergency cash reserve.

Both National Savings and Tessas offer secure returns. High-rate taxpayers should look at index-linked National Savings certificates, which offer complete capital security.

For cautious investments look at distribution and with-profit bonds from insurance companies. With-profits bonds also offer defensive asset allocation. Among medium-risk investments, look out for a growing number of unit trusts which offer some capital guarantee against market falls – Edinburgh Fund Managers' Safety First fund is one we like.

Aggressive portfolio
Asset classes: UK high income and smaller company funds, European smaller companies, global technology.

The key to this sector is understanding that if you narrow the sector you are investing into, then the risk goes up.

UK funds like Perpetual's High Income can offer a combination of relatively low volatility with excellent medium-term performance if income is reinvested for growth.

Venture capital trusts are far riskier. Offering valuable tax breaks, they invest in small, unlisted UK shares, a sector currently very undervalued.

Finally, look at themed investments, like Henderson's Global Technology trust, which buys shares in high tech companies around the world, thus avoiding too much exposure to a one national stock market.

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Grow with the flow

It's called momentum theory, the idea that all investors have to do is follow the big money. But can the herd instinct only work with bull markets? By **Tony Lyons**

Bovine behaviour can pay off for fund managers *Phelps Jeffrey/AP*

No fund manager worth his salt will admit to being a momentum theorist. Yet in the last few years the behaviour of the stock market suggests that most have been investing on the basis of momentum.

In short, momentum theory says: "If others are buying into a company, they must know what they are doing, so join in."

The wave of money chasing finance, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and technology shares can be explained by this simple theory.

These are the stocks that dominate the main indices, chased by index tracking funds. Other investors, seeing these shares going ever higher, have sold out of other shares to chase these companies.

It all sounds very much like following the herd. If fund managers see every one else buying shares in particular companies, they won't go far wrong if they join in. When it comes to review time by the fund's trustees, or when unit holders look at their reports, they will see their funds doing the same as everyone else.

"In America, where the market is very polarised and hedge funds are common, there are many momentum funds that own up to following this investment theory," says John Hatherly, of M&G. "The idea is what goes up will continue to go up. If it is the herd instinct, always remember that the herd is mighty powerful."

Stock* market conditions since 1995 have backed up this theory. Big companies have attracted ever more money, their share prices continually rising despite the odd hiccup, while other shares have often languished in their wake. "The expensive has become more expensive, while cheap stock has become even cheaper," comments Mr Hatherly.

The only problem with the momentum view of investment is that it does not tell the investor when to sell. "In its purest form, it tells you that, if a share price is hitting new highs, you should buy," says Bob Yerbury, of Perpetual.

"This means that you have to be an active trader, continually buying on the way up. When the market in a company's shares turns, then it says you should sell all your holding. This is a recipe for big losses. The market these days can turn rapidly, and a share price can plummet quicker than you can place your sell order. Momentum theory is not a science, rather it is going with the fashionable trend until it's no longer fashionable."

Most fund managers in this country, while they cannot ignore trends, will claim that they invest for a particular reason, whether it's because of fundamental values or growth prospects, not because they are following the herd.

Opposed to the momentum view are what can be called contrarians. "These are prepared to own shares that are currently unpopular for one reason or another; they may not be performing at the moment, but they are so cheap that they will make money eventually," explains Bob Yerbury. "The only problem, if no one else ever sees that these shares are undervalued, then no matter how cheap they are, they still won't do anything."

Contrarian funds exist in large numbers. Any funds that invest in special situations or recovery stocks or those funds that specialise in small companies can be said to be in this camp. While normally high risk, they have been successful in past bull markets, although, during the current bull run, they have suffered.

However, if stock markets get over the current phase, where the top-performing funds are those that invest in the largest companies, or if a bear market arrives, contrarian funds or those that invest outside the Ftse stocks may return to prominence.

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Let's PEP talk

Sit back and watch the growth roll up tax-free. By **Nic Cicutti**

ANYONE INVESTING their hard-earned savings wants to maximise the growth they will receive. Apart from finding a manager with the skills to outperform his or her rivals, the next best way to add a few pounds to the value of a fund is to see the growth roll up free of tax.

This means investing in a PEP or, from 6 April, in an Individual Savings Account (ISA). What are the PEP rules governing what you can invest?

You must be over 18 and a UK resident. Although you do not need to pay tax to invest in a PEP, those who benefit most are higher-rate taxpayers. You do not have to declare a PEP to the Inland Revenue: the taxman will know about your investment anyway.

Up to £6,000 can be placed in a "general" PEP, which usually consists of so-called pooled funds such as unit and investment trusts, plus a further £3,000 in a single company one. It is also possible to choose your own shares, placing them in a "self-select" PEP available from stockbrokers.

PEPs were first aimed at promoting investment into UK companies. It is still the case that you must have at least 50 per cent of your general PEP in UK- or EU-based companies. Up to £1,500 can go into "non-qualifying" trusts which do not satisfy the 50 per cent rule, but this must be within the same PEP.

You can only have one PEP manager a year, although your single company and general PEP manager can be different. Annual PEP allowances cannot be carried over. If you miss the 5 April deadline, there will be no more PEPs. Husbands and wives can each have up to £9,000 in a PEP.

Income from a PEP is free of tax. Part or all of a PEP can be cashed free of tax, but once this is done it cannot be taken out again. It is possible to transfer a PEP from one manager to another and retain its tax-free status. But this must be done by the new PEP manager. Selling up and starting again yourself will invalidate your PEP allowance.

The Independent's 26-page 'Guide to PEPs' will help you to pick the best one. For your free copy of the guide, sponsored by Scottish Widows, call 0345 678910

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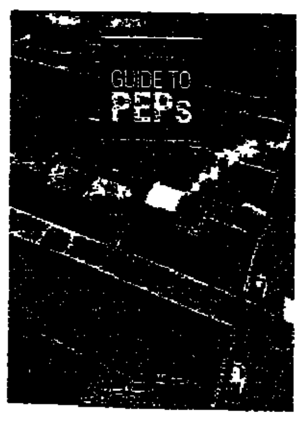

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Uppers and downers

Tony Lyons examines the two principal approaches employed in fund management

Imagine you are a fund manager. You walk into the office at the start of the day knowing you have a pile of investment decisions to make. Foremost among these are what to buy, to sell and to hold on to.

You could start by taking a view on the state of the economy and its direction. From this, you could then try to work out which sectors are the gainers, which are the losers, finally arriving at a list of companies that will benefit and those that won't.

Alternatively, you could start by looking at the number of company reports done either by your own analysts or from stockbroking firms. While not totally ignoring macro economic factors, you will be more interested in the prospects for these companies, whether they have the potential for lots of future growth and increased dividends, or not.

These are the two principal methods of starting your investment strategy. The former is called "top down", the latter "bottom up". While every fund manager and management group uses elements of both, they all fall into one camp or the other.

"We are very much a bottom up investment house," says John Ross of Fidelity, the world's largest fund management group. "We have a fundamental company-by-company approach. We never try to predict interest rates or the way the economy is going, even though we know the effect these have.

"We will get a good idea of what the real economy is doing from all the companies we see."

The group employs over 200 analysts around the world, with nearly a quarter of them based in the UK. They are divided into groups that look at particular sectors, namely financials, natural resources, utilities, cyclicals, consumer goods, healthcare and technology.

"The analysts will visit as many companies, large and small, as they can in their sector," explains John Ross. "From their research, they will rate their attractiveness as an investment for our funds. It is then up to the individual fund manager."

Now contrast this approach with that of Credit Suisse, a typical "top down" fund management house. "We are very driven by macro-economics," says Dominic Wallington. "We start by taking an overview of the economy. We then see who's swimming with the tide and who against. This tells us which companies are likely to benefit in the prevailing environment. This is our basic strategy."

It is often stated that when dealing with small companies, a bottom up approach is needed. But Credit Suisse, which has earned a good reputation for its specialist funds in this sector, still uses macro-economic tools. "We know that small companies lack liquidity, [they suffer from low demand, so their shares tend to suffer from too few buyers]," adds Mr Wallington, "so we look to those which add value."

Many groups adopt a top down approach when it comes to international investment. RCM Dresdner's Global Growth fund used to be a typical example. This divided the world into segments based on each individual country's share of the global economy. From here it then selected sectors that would benefit from the then current trends before choosing which companies to invest in.

"We've now taken a more balanced approach," says Simon White. "With the changes we've seen in world markets over the past couple of years, we have moved to more stock selection, whichever county they happen to be in. If you want to invest in mobile phones, for example, you must look at Nokia. This is a Finnish company, yet Finland only has a tiny role on the world stage." So an investment in a company like this would be larger than an investment in Finland would justify on a pure top down approach.

Of course, most groups employ both approaches to some extent before making their eventual share selection. "No fund group these days will ever admit to being just a pure stock picker," says Bob Yerbury of Perpetual. "We all take into account the general economic background while we look for undervalued companies.

At the end of the day, there is surprisingly little difference in the overall performance results of the top downers and the bottom uppers. No matter where they start, be it with macro economics or looking at individual companies, the real difference is between those who make good investments and those who don't.

What's important is to keep a close eye on your investments

Do your sums

Nic Cicutti picks his way through the investment minefield

THE MOMENT you decide that you want to invest your hard-earned money, you will be swamped by insurance companies, fund management groups, banks and financial advisers, clamouring to sell you their products.

Choosing the right product becomes highly confusing. Here is a brief list of the questions you should bear in mind when looking for the investment to suit your needs.

First, ask yourself what your own attitude to risk is. There is no point investing in a UK smaller companies fund, which has been subject to regular stockmarket swings, if something safer, like a with-profits bond, is more sensible.

Second, decide whether your primary need is for income or growth. This should be simple but is complicated by the fact that some "income" funds have delivered exceptionally good growth in recent years. If you reinvest income now, you may be able to take it a few years down the line, when you may be in greater need of it.

Third, find out that company's performance. Don't just look at one-year performance. Look for one, three, five and even seven and 10 years' worth. The fund need not always be in the top 10. But it should aim to be consistently in the top "quartile", the leading 25 per cent of funds in any one period.

Fourth, watch out for volatility. This is where some funds can rise like rockets and fall back just as quickly. They may seem good performers, but this is at the potential cost of your money. *The Independent* will shortly be publishing "volatility" ratings for leading funds.

Check charges. There is no point in a splendid performance if a fund manager eats away half of it through hefty fees. At the end of the day, most funds will deliver very similar performances. The one thing that sets them apart is the annual charge levied on each one. Over a 10-year period, a 0.5 per cent annual difference means a £100,000 fund could be worth £5,000 more.

Finally, how long the fund manager responsible for any out-performance has been in place (they may just have decamped to another firm).

Doing your homework and asking the right questions will not necessarily guarantee that you find the fund that will make you rich. But it will reduce the likelihood of being sold a pup.

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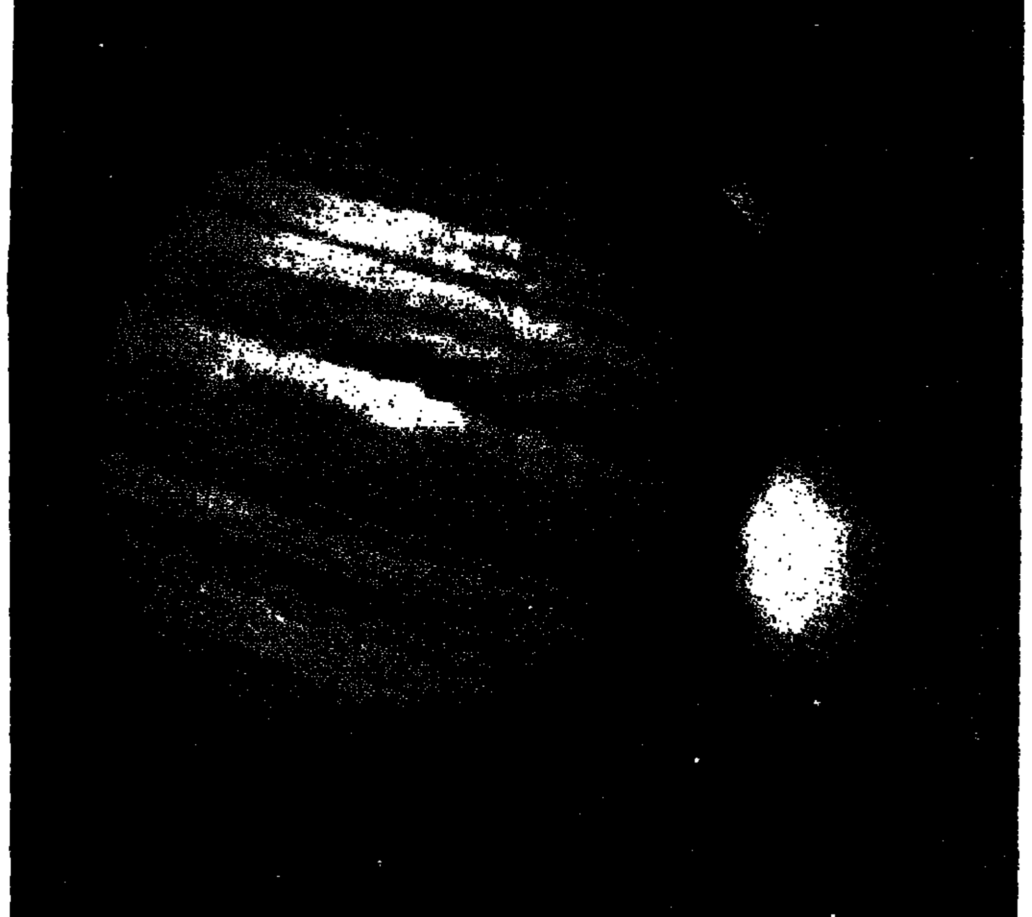

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Today there are funds to suit all sorts of people AP

Ethical or in recovery?

There are various ways in which fund managers can invest your money. By **Tony Lyons**

WHEN YOU entrust your money to a fund manager, you hope that he or she will make you oodles of money. If truth be known, you probably won't ask so will never find out what investment philosophy they follow. All investors really care about is whether the manager is successful.

There are, however, different investment philosophies and accompanying articles have shown those most used nowadays by UK fund management groups. Some funds, because of their very nature and aims, fall into distinct camps where philosophy is secondary importance. Let's now look at a few of these:

Special situation funds: "Managers of these funds are always on the look out for undervalued companies," says John Ross of Fidelity. "They tend to travel alone, away from the crowd, with a bias towards medium and smaller companies. They are looking, as the name implies, for something special such as new products or new management, something that will make the shares motor."

What they are looking for are companies that have promising prospects that no one else has spotted. This means they do almost all their own research as they don't particularly want to invest where many others have already gone. Having found the right companies, they back their hunches.

Recovery funds: These can include some types of special situation funds, as they are looking for companies that have fallen on hard times but because of changes, usually involving new management, there are good prospects that they could prosper again. Quite often, a restructuring could be involved, with disposals and acquisitions. So while their shares may be low, they could begin to rise and significantly outperform.

M&G Recovery, with £1.3 billion of assets, is by far the largest fund of its type. "Recovery stocks have suffered during the last couple of years as concentration has been on the very large companies, spurred on by takeovers," says John Hatherly of M&G. "In the past, they have tended to do poorly when there is a recession or economic slowdown. But in these markets, being overweight in small and medium companies, underweight in sectors such as telecoms, financials and pharmaceuticals, has been a problem. While the FTSE 100 and All Share went up over 17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively last year, the index for smaller companies fell 8 per cent.

Sector specialist funds: While there are a handful of funds that follow new global trends in demographics and social factors, such as ageing populations and increased leisure time, there are many that tend to invest in very specific sectors such as healthcare or technology. They are usually labelled as higher risk investments.

Although they look at the world markets, very often they find that the overwhelming majority of their investment opportunities are in the USA. For example, it is estimated that around 80 per cent of the companies connected with the world of computers and the Internet are listed on Wall Street or Nasdaq, both US based.

Country specific funds: Funds investing in geographic areas such as Europe or the USA are generally seen as being medium risk. These are very large, diversified markets. They are open markets with controls similar to those at home.

Country specific funds, especially if they are based on emerging markets, are very high risk indeed. So many factors are out of the control of the fund manager that it does not matter what investment philosophy he uses.

As well as time and language problems, there may be rules on the way foreigners are allowed to invest, and there can also be currency controls. Indeed some of these emerging markets can be incredibly volatile, going from boom to bust in no time.

Ethical funds: Some investors object to having their money in companies that make their profits by unethical means. If so, there now over 20 ethical funds available that might suit you.

But the self-imposed restrictions on the fund mean that they have to look at their portfolio on a company-by-company basis. While the managers may have views on the economy, these are not the determining factor when it comes to their investments. Paramount is ensuring a company fits in with the fund's strategy and that it offers prospects of good returns.

Work it out

Don't be confounded by obscure financial terms. By **Nic Cicutti**

ANYONE WHO has tried to delve into the investment world will have come across a range of bizarre terminology which appears designed to put people off the idea of saving money. Here are a few of the most common terms you are likely to come across, together with an explanation.

Accumulation units: with some unit trust PEPs you will be given the choice between accumulation and income units. Accumulation is what you should choose if you don't want an income. This means that if a dividend is paid, it will automatically be reinvested in the trust, increasing the total value of your investment.

Bid/offer spread: the difference between the price you can pay for an investment and the price you can sell at, at any time. It includes the initial charge levied on the fund.

CGT (capital gains tax): a tax on the increase in the value of your investments. CGT is levied at the taxpayers' marginal rate. This means gains in excess of £6,800 are taxed at income tax rates (as top slice of income), at 20 per cent, 23 per cent or 40 per cent depending on your circumstances. Since the March 1998 Budget, the rate of CGT tapers downwards to 20 per cent over a 10-year period.

Distributions: income paid from a unit trust PEP.

Dividends: the portion of a company's profits distributed to shareholders, normally paid half-yearly.

Exit charge: a charge that is levied by some PEPs for selling up in the first few years.

Income units: the opposite of accumulation units (see earlier).

Qualifying funds: unit and investment trusts which qualify for the full £6,000 annual PEP allowance. They must have 50 per cent of their investments in the EU.

Share exchange: some PEPs allow you to exchange an existing portfolio of shares, usually at a special price, and reinvest the proceeds in one of their funds.

Tax credits: dividends and income are normally paid net of basic tax. Tax credits are a record that this tax has been deducted.

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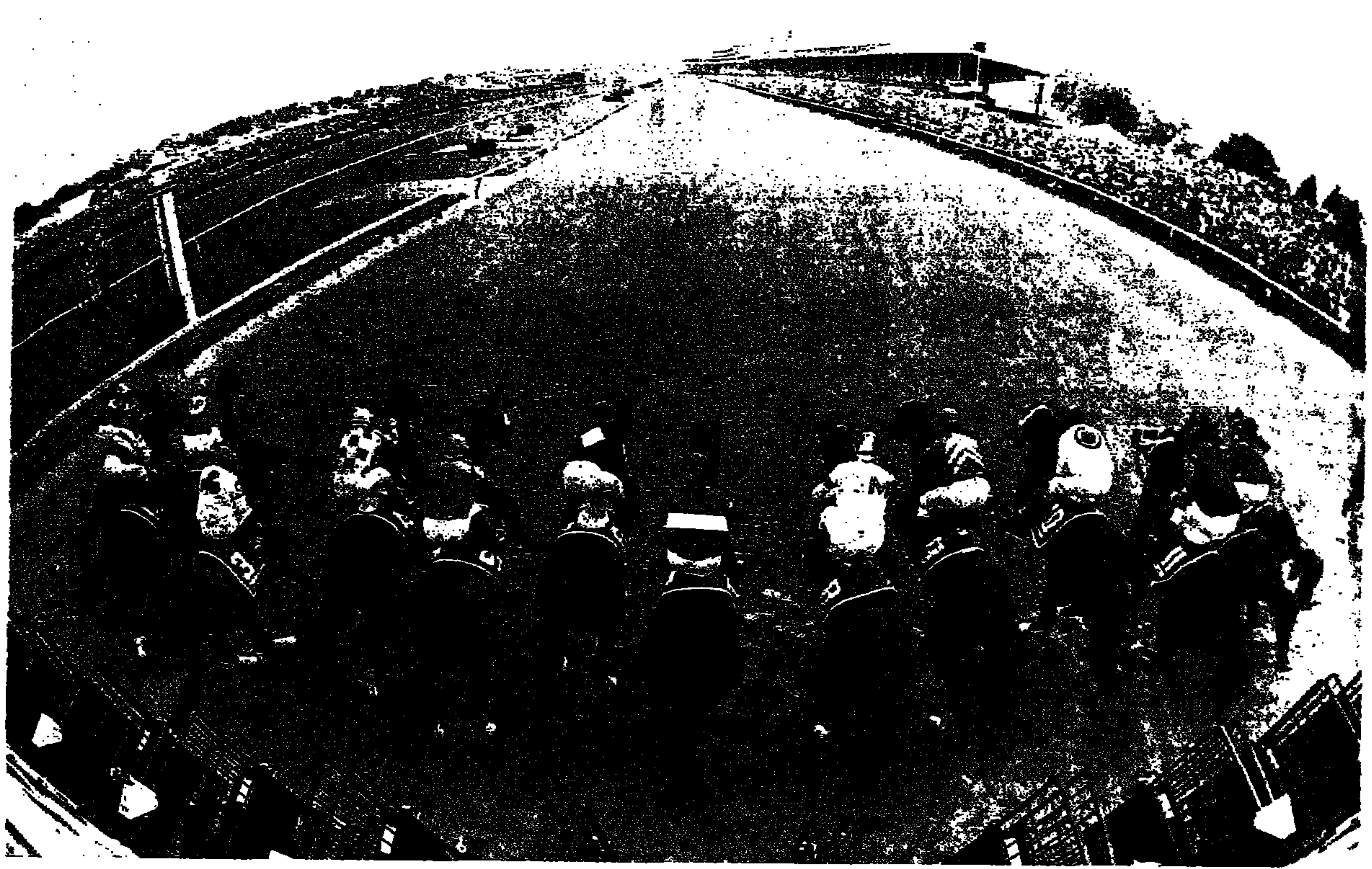
Know how to grow

Quality is a factor for those seeking valuable investments. By **Tony Lyons**


Experienced punters know that in the race to choose the next successful fund the key is studying the form

In the past, active fund managers were divided into those who favoured growth stocks and those trying to find the greatest value. But nowadays, with the change to a low growth, low inflation economy, the growth followers have the upper hand.

The division between the two styles, however, is a fundamental one. And while the battle between them may appear to be over, this is because the leading value management groups, such as M&G and Fidelity, have refined their investment philosophies to suit today's market conditions.

In fact, much of the poor performance of the recent past at M&G was seen by outside financial advisers to be a result of the group slavishly following its investment policy without adapting it to meet the changed economic environment.

"We don't just look for low valuations, it's more sophisticated than that," says John Hatherly of M&G. "So while looking for a low share price relative to a company's prospects, we also look at the quality of the company."

For much of the post-war period, the UK has had a high inflation, high interest rate economy, with its boom-bust cycles. Looking at it simplistically, value followers would seek to invest in companies whose shares were out of favour at the time, holding them for the next phase in the cycle. These so-called cyclical stocks were typically industrial companies, usually medium sized or smaller.

So when interest rates were near their high point in the cycle, sectors such as engineering fell out of favour, squeezed as they were by the high costs of borrowing and high rates of sterling, making their exports expensive.

Value managers would buy these shares knowing that, when the government of the day took corrective measures, these stocks would come back into favour. After this, they would then switch to defensive stocks, such as food retailers, gainers when the screws were tightened.

Managers with a growth investment policy ignore this search for value. "Growth followers don't mind paying a high price for a share, as long as that particular company's earnings continue to grow," says John Ross of Fidelity.

Its followers believe that the long term value of any company's share is solely determined by its future income stream. "If you find a stock with a history of good returns, this is likely to continue," explains Simon White of RCM Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. "It helps if the shares are underpriced, that they haven't been spotted by the rest of the market."

In other words, "growth followers are after companies with above-average growth prospects," says Bob Yerbury of Perpetual, a leading group using this investment theory. "We look basically at the price earnings ratios of companies, trying to buy as cheaply as possible those with the greatest promise. With low inflation and falling interest rates, growth stocks will continue to do better."

"Today, with the bias against cyclical stocks and heavy industry, it's evident that those who used the old value style were basically trying to predict the future state of the national economy," explains John Ross. "If their forecast failed to happen, the value in their shareholdings wouldn't be realised, so their funds ran into trouble."

Value followers have had to redefine their philosophy to meet the changes. In some groups this saw the spilling of some management blood on the way. M&G, for example, had accompanied its amended investment philosophy with a number of key changes in personnel.

"Nowadays, we use a sophisticated checklist when looking at companies," says John Hatherly. "This includes looking at their balance sheets, cash generation, market position, profit and dividend generation, their growth focus and the overall quality of their management. We then end up with a list of value and qualitative scores. These will show the difference between those that have a low current value for good reasons, and those where there are prospects that the valuations will change for the better."

This almost seems like a variant of the growth theory, with its adherents trying to get in on the ground floor before the rest of the market has spotted a change in a company's fortunes. Maybe value-followers are turning into quasi-growth strategists now.

Coming around again

Don't panic over the PEP deadline. By **Nic Cicutti**

ROLL UP, roll up. Fill your boots with a last-minute PEP. Use it or lose it. As the 5 April deadline for final PEP sales approaches, fund managers are becoming more strident in their efforts to persuade us to take out tax-free products.

But the propaganda about not missing the PEP boat ignores one vitally important point: on 6 April, it will still be possible to buy a tax-free savings product, the Individual Savings Account (ISA).

In fact, in the coming tax year it will be possible to stash away £7,000 (more than the £6,000 allowed in a PEP) into a general ISA. The downside is that ISAs are inherently more complicated. So what are the rules?

For a start, the age and residency requirements of a PEP apply to an ISA, too. But they also come in three different guises, maxi, mini and Tessa-only. Investors will be allowed to set up their own variant almost at will. The investment limit into maxi-ISA can be up to £5,000pa (£7,000 in 1999/2000). It must contain a stocks and shares component, which includes unit and investment trusts, shares, corporate bonds and gilts. But the maxi can also include a cash component (bank/building society accounts, National Savings) and/or life assurance. Alternatively, you can set up mini-ISAs, into which either £3,000 can go into stocks and shares, £1,000 into insurance products or £1,000 into cash (£3,000 in 1999/2000). Tessas will be scrapped, although you can still invest in one opened before 5 April. At maturity, and for six months afterwards, the capital value can be poured into a cash ISA.

Investors who are being exhorted to pile into PEPs now should pause for thought. So you lose a year's worth of tax benefits. But what goes around comes around – and in this case it will be back in a different wrapper the day after PEPs are withdrawn.

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Daub, splatter, drip and dribble

Jackson Pollock's action paintings had an electrifying effect on post-war designers. Will the arrival this month of a major new exhibition at London's Tate Gallery cause similar creative shock waves second time around? By **Lesley Jackson**

When Sir Leigh Ashton, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, was confronted by his first Jackson Pollock painting in 1948, his reaction was: "It would make a most enchanting silk." Designers themselves were equally quick to appreciate the decorative potential of action painting, and initially it was the design fraternity rather than the art world which responded most positively to what Alexander Eliot dismissed in *Time* magazine as "the shlosh-and-spatter school of post-war art".

In his landmark article on Pollock published in *Life* magazine on 8 August 1949, Arnold Newman wrote: "Recently, a formidably highbrow New York critic hailed the brooding, puzzled-looking man shown above as a major artist of our time… Others believe that Jackson Pollock produces nothing more than interesting, if inexplicable, decoration. Still others condemn his pictures as degenerate, and find them as unpalatable as yesterday's macaroni."

While art critics argued fruitlessly over whether it was art, decoration or, indeed, yesterday's macaroni, designers responded in a more immediate way to Pollock's energy and dynamism. His work had a huge impact in Italy, for example, when it was showcased at the Venice Biennale in 1950, prompting Lucio Fontana to create a huge scribbly neon-lighting installation – the three-dimensional equivalent of an action painting – at the Milan Triennale the following year.

In Britain, Zika and Lida Ascher, who produced artist-designed dress fabrics and scarves, were the first to get in on the act, commissioning an abstract expressionist fabric from Gerald Wilde in 1947, which captured all the excitement of "Jack the Dripper", just as his work was breaking onto the international scene. Hot on their heels came the Preston-based firm of Horrockses, makers of printed cotton frocks, who abandoned floral patterns in favour of Pollock-inspired scribbles and dots. "Dot Dash" was the evocative name of a fabric made by Marchington in 1954, while over in Denmark, the artist Aagaard Andersen created an irreverent homage to Pollock in the form of two "action textiles", "Doodlepoint" and "Doodledash".

During the 1950s, it was perfectly commonplace for artists to create designs for the textile industry, as the title of an exhibition called "Paintings into Textiles", held at the ICA in 1953, bears witness. The exhibition featured abstract paintings by leading artists such as Henry Moore, Eduardo Paolozzi, William Gear, Donald Hamilton-Fraser and Louis Le Broquy, many of which were subsequently put into production by the progressive Lancashire textile firm, David Whitehead. Paule Vézelay, who designed a number of fabrics for the equally forward-looking Heals, commented in 1959 that "the whole standard of textile design has been raised in the most interesting way by the introduction of designs inspired by paintings. They have ceased to be something purely commercial and have formed a bridge between commercial art and fine art." Vézelay appreciated the important propaganda role of design in popularising the avant-garde. Of her own textiles she said: "Many people would be bewildered by the same design if it were an oil painting and shown in an art gallery".

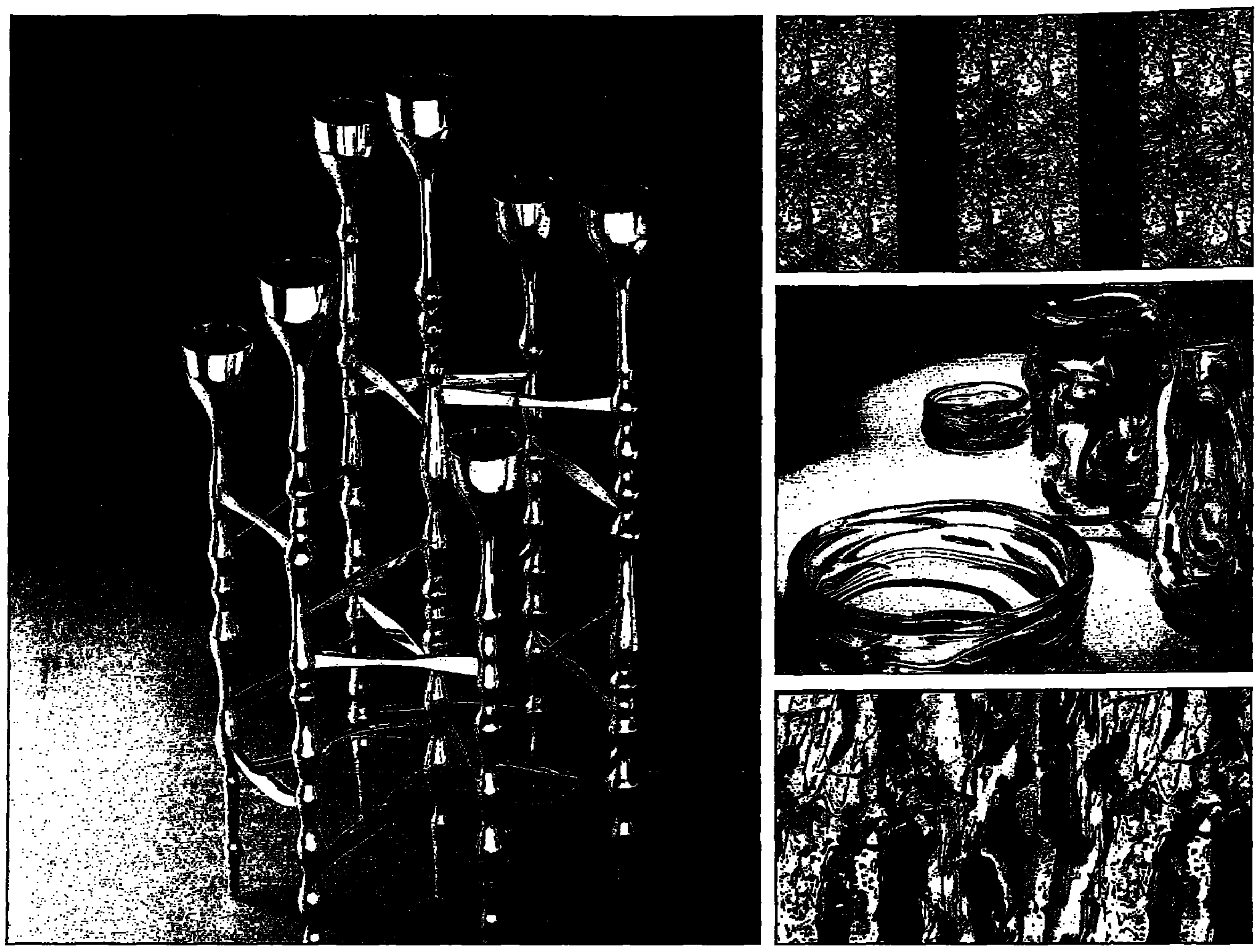
Eddie Pond, a textile designer who trained at the Royal College of Art from 1955 to 1958, experienced the Pollock phenomenon at first hand. "Designers found a new god in Jackson Pollock and action painting," he recalls. "Doreen Dyall's desk at the RCA sat in a sea of encrusted varnish and paint, whilst other students dribbled and splashed paint all round." Dyall was one of many Pollock-inspired young pattern designers, including Fay Hillier, Dorothy Carr and Nicola Wood, who enthusiastically collaborated with textile and wallpaper manufacturers on leaving college, while aspiring young action painters such as Cliff Holden and Harold Cohen were just as keen to join the fun. In the go-ahead firm of Heal Fabrics they found an enlightened patron, and thus it was that their daubed, spattered, dripped and dribbled patterns created a new school of textural abstract design.

Pollock-mania reached its peak in Britain between 1956-59, following a series of major exhibitions devoted to abstract expressionism at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and the Tate. The silversmith Robert Welch was so fired up after seeing Pollock's paintings in 1958 that he designed a stunning seven-light candelabrum, its spindly knobbly legs suggesting dribbles of paint. Many other designers have testified to the electrifying impact of abstract expressionism on their work, including the American textile artist Jack Lenor Larsen, and the Finnish glass designer Timo Sarpaneva. Sarpaneva underwent a late but dramatic conversion. During the early 1950s he had been the coolest of all the designers in the Scandinavian Modern school, but in 1964 he abandoned this Brancusi-esque detachment to create what can only be described as "action glass". Inspired by "Jackson Pollock's spontaneous paintings of massed densely coloured lines", Sarpaneva responded with his craggy, charred Finlandia sculptures, shaped in wooden moulds set on fire by the incandescent glass.

Glass may sound an unlikely medium for abstract expressionism, but molten glass, like paint, is a fluid material, and back in the 1950s, Pollock's dynamic methods inspired designers in several countries to adopt a freer and more painterly approach to glass. Vicke Lindstrand in Sweden and Max Verboeket in Holland both created three-dimensional action paintings by suspending random streaks of colour in a matrix of clear glass. Arne Jon Jutrem went further still, inciting the normally restrained glassmakers at the Hadeland factory in Norway to pour trails of enamel at random onto the surface of his glass. Pollock's legacy can also be detected in the irregular lumpy vessels with streaky colouring created by firms such as Whitefriars and Leerdam during the 1960s. Indeed, it could be argued that it was Pollock, indirectly, who was responsible for triggering off the studio glass movement. His iconoclastic approach to painting inspired a generation of independent young glass artists – including the legendary Dale Chihuly – to use glass in a spontaneous way and to push it to the limit as a creative medium.

"Any number of PhD theses await being written about the influence of Cubism, of Tachism, of Op or Pop art on fabrics and wallpaper," wrote Ernst Gombrich in 1979, "and about the decreasing time lag with which these inventions are taken up and spread throughout industry." Will the return of Jackson Pollock to London in 1999 prompt another explosion, and if so, now we have no textile industry to mention, what form will it take?

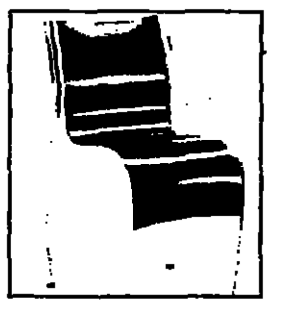
The Jackson Pollock exhibition is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 from 11 March to 6 June (0171-887 8000). The designer Paul Smith has created a limited-edition T-shirt to accompany the exhibition, available from the Tate Gallery shop, price £35, proceeds to the Tate



A lot of Pollocks: Robert Welch's 1958 candelabrum; top r: Flamingo fabric by Tibor Reich; middle: streaky glass by William Wilson; bottom: Oak fabric by Dorothy Carr

DESIGN LINES

THE UNSTOPPABLY innovative designer Ron Arad this week unveiled his latest creation, "Fantastic Plastic Elastic" (FPE, pictured below). Made in association with the Italian company Kartell, it consists of a single polymer sheet bent into shape (a revolutionary process, natch) and slotted into an aluminium frame. Sleek, stackable and available in many colours, it can be purchased for the equally startling price of £125, from Artworks, 21-22 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0PQ (0171-359 4778).



LOVERS OF Italian films, the Fifties and mechanical delights should head to the European Academy for the Arts (8-9 Grosvenor Place, London SW1, Tues-Sat 10.30-5.30, Sun 2.30-5.30, Wed 10.30-8) for a new exhibition: "The Vespa: a 20th-century design icon" (0171-235 0303).

WOMEN DESIGNERS made a huge impact in the Potteries from the 1920s onwards. Find out more about Susie Cooper, Millicent Taplin and others in an exhibition at the Croydon Clocktower. The Clocktower is holding a woman-only "Decorate your own pot" as part of International Women's Day on 8 March. "Dynamic Designers: pioneering potters and paintresses" runs until 31 May at The Clocktower, Katharine St, Croydon (0181-253 1030).

Oh TV, I worship thee

Your sitting-room may end up looking like a small branch of Dixons, but if you're a sensorama sound freak, who cares? By **Philip Kerr**

TO DESCRIBE my television merely as a set does it no justice at all. If I may slip temporarily into Clarkson speak, to use the word "set" in conjunction with my television is like calling a Ferrari F40 a "vehicle". My television bears no more relation to the average crystal bucket than the London Aquarium does to a goldfish bowl. It is an entertainment centre. It is the coolest of cool media. It is not so much a television as a home cinema.

Let's take the big screen first of all. It is a rear-projection screen, 42 inches high, taller than a Mini. Attached to this we have a Nicam VHS recorder that is both NTSC- and PAL-compatible, which means that whenever I visit America I can buy lots of videos at the sort of prices we would all be paying if we hadn't been stupid enough to join the EC. Then there is a laser-disc player that enables me to play those extra-special films which I never grow tired of watching – *Lawrence of Arabia, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Toy Story* – without degrading the recording.

So, we have pretty good pictures. But then there is the audio. The audio is breathtaking. The audio quality is better than Wimbledon Odeon. (Not that *this* is difficult, mind. William Hague sounds better than my local Odeon.) The audio in my TV room comes out of five smallish speakers, arranged around the walls so that you get what you might call the *Saving Private Ryan* effect of bullets zipping past both ears, and a big bass Jago speaker – which doubles as a coffee table – that provides the secondary *Saving Private Ryan* effect of not just hearing the sound of a German 88, but feeling it, too, and thanking God that it missed you. Listening to that Jago rumbling underneath your Nescafé, you tell yourself that it sounds so realistic you would probably never hear the one that had your name on it. If Nicole Kidman is pure theatrical Viagra, then a Jago bass speaker is pure televisual Aldous Huxley: O, Brave New World that has such speakers in it.

Philip Kerr: centre of entertainment *John Dempsie*

On one occasion I was watching *Heat*, which has one of the best, and loudest, shoot-out scenes since Peckinpah's *The Wild Bunch*. On the equipment in my TV room, you could hear every high-velocity bullet impacting tinnily just above the dado rail, getaway cars screeching away behind the curtains, police sirens wailing like so many lost cats in the recesses of the fireplace, innocent bystanders screaming with terror as they threw themselves down on the Bokhara rug, and Al Pacino breathing heavily beside my Pullman-style armchair having sprinted in from the dining-room to put a bullet between the eyes of poor old Tom Sizemore. The sound of the heat coming around the corner seemed so realistic that I felt obliged to go outside the house and listen through the window, to find out if my neighbours thought they were living next to the spiritual heirs of David Koresh, and another Waco was in progress. It is perhaps fortunate that both they and I live in detached houses with bunker-thick walls and gardens in which there are many sound-absorbent trees.

> *'I now have a wider choice of crap to browse through in a more user-friendly way'*

Television is a natural part of my life and I love watching it. The only problem is that there is so little worth watching. Hence the VHS, the laser disc, the membership of the Blockbuster video shop and now Sky Digital, with all the sports channels and all the film channels for £29 a month. This sounds expensive until you have to watch BBC1 for a *whole* Saturday evening. Try it and see if I'm not right.

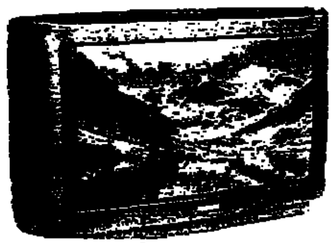
The truth is, I'm bit of a convert to Sky. Originally, this might have had something to do with the fact that I was evangelised by the high priestess of Sky herself – Elizabeth Murdoch, whose eyes lit up as she told me about the digital revolution which, she assured me, would change forever the way we watch television. Once I escaped her electrifying gaze, I had my doubts. But now that I am a subscriber to Sky Digital, and have been a viewer for several weeks, I must confess that Elizabeth is right. It has changed the way I watch telly. I now have a wider choice of crap to browse through in a much more user-friendly way, thanks to Sky's excellent remote-control handset. Moreover, the Sky crap looks and sounds a lot better, too. In comparison, terrestrial television broadcasts now appear as if it's permanently snowing.

All this extra equipment means a lot of black boxes and wires. The room now resembles a branch of Dixons. But when the lights are off you hardly notice, and there's the added benefit of being able to watch a movie without having to endure the scratch and sniff of foodstuffs being consumed by the Great Unfed. There are no commentators and no critics. Best of all, I don't have to watch that silly Bacardi commercial.

Philip Kerr's novel 'The Second Angel' is published by Orion (£12.99)

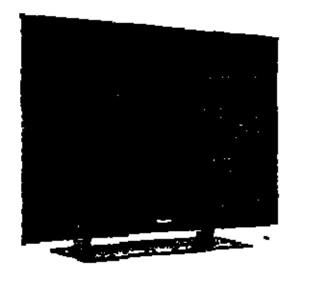
SCREEN DREAMS: THE ULTIMATE TVS

THE TELEVISION set is no longer the cutting-edge object of desire that it used to be. Impossible to integrate into the stylish modern sitting-room, it more often than not squats like a large toad in the corner of your living space – too big, too black and just too damn bulky to be anything other than a complete eyesore.



But now television set manufacturers are beginning to change all that. Conscious that they are competing with a whole new world of computer games, not to mention the Internet, they are not only getting to grips with new technology, but with revolutionary design as well: having to fight to be the first to serve up the much-publicised digital revolution to a gadget-hungry, style-conscious public.

As a humble punter, you can realise at least one of your hi-tech aspirations with Phillips's 28-inch, fully integrated, digital, widescreen television, retailing at about £1,000. Viewers will be able to receive around 10 free digital channels as well as the new services from ITV2 and the BBC, simply by plugging into their existing aerial socket.

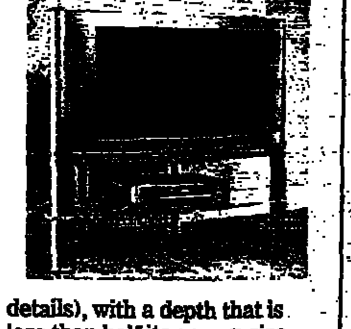


Phillips have also managed to produce a range of television sets which are stylish enough to be viewed in their own right.

The award winning "Cool Green" widescreen, priced at just under £2,000, features 45-watt Nicam stereo, surround-sound, a 100Hz (flicker-free) screen and includes a matching VCR. Call 0181-665 6350 for details and local stockists.

Another company that is investing in style as much as performance is Grundig: their 42-inch (4-inch depth) flat-screen Planatron can be mounted on the wall (call 0181-324 9460 for details), making it thoroughly and pleasingly discreet. The downside is the price – a hefty £12,000.

Toshiba have also used state-of-the-art rear-projection technology to produce the 40-inch "Supermodel" TV, the 40PW8DB (available for around £3000, call 01276 62222 for details), with a depth that is less than half its screen size.



The cinematic experience is heightened by the screen's ability to broadcast in widescreen format, and Dolby Digital or Dolby Pro-logic surround-sound produce crisp stereo in five different modes.

With their ability to link up to DVD players, and superior sound and vision quality, manufacturers are hoping that these sets will be the revolution that TV needs to reclaim its place in the nation's hearts – and sitting-rooms.

KATY GUEST

Top: Phillips's 28-inch, widescreen digital TV set; middle: the "Cool Green" screen; bottom: the 42-inch flatscreen, wall-mountable Planatron

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هكذا من الاعلى

I WANT TO OWN ...
THE LATEST TRAINERS

Time to put a spring in your step

Left: Legacy in grey with orange, navy or lime details, £84.99, DC (0181-427 2812)

Right: Ultracell in bright blue or black, £29.99, Nike (0800 056 1640)

Left: Stan Smith in black or white, £40, Adidas (0161 419 2839)

Right: Unkel in black/charcoal or navy/grey, £49.99, Vans (0181-877 9907)

Left: Jungle Runner in red, yellow or cream, £64.99, Merrell (0117 963 6363)

If you close your eyes then I'm sure you can still picture them. What they looked like when they came out of the box. And how they died. The heels of your first pair of cool trainers were so worn down that half of your socks were threadbare before you chucked them. Either that or the junction between upper and inner sole burst open like a cracked-leather chrysalis every time you took a stride.

My own personal memory is of playing football on a concrete tennis court covered in snow, one baggy white Puma on my left foot and a pert, black, Adidas Mamba on my right. Salvaging the working halves of credible label trainers was the only option when the alternative was to be cast into peer hell in a pair of cheap, comfortable non-label imitations. No, the cheap ones were just not as good, mum.

On astro turf

Name: Tiempo Pro 4 Turf
Price: £39.99
Stockist: 0800 056 1640
Description: The solid, dependable workhorses of Nike's footie fleet with full-grain leather uppers, padded collar and durable rubber soles. They're comfortable, understated and offer decent traction on astro turf.
Style: ☆☆☆☆
Anything else worth considering? Nike Ultracell (£29.99, 0800 056 1640) if you want to look like the world's greatest striker. They look like they're made of the same, bright blue synthetic kangaroo skin (the breathable KNG-100) with polyurethane (PU) that was bestowed upon the Ronaldo-endorsed Nike Mercurial football boots last year, although this is a standard synthetic-leather product. (This season Ultracell will also be available in black.) If you prefer Beckham's boots (tyre-tread rubber for added swerve), then choose Adidas Touch Team (£59.99, 0161 419 2839), based on the ubiquitous Predator football boots.

In country

Name: Merrell Jungle Runner
Price: £64.99
Stockist: 0117 963 6363
Description: Merrell hiking boots were originally based around a cowboy boot last, although the Jungle Runner looks like a climbing shoe which has been genetically spliced with a Michelin tyre and a squid. The ankle-hugging uppers are made of supple red nubuck/split leather with a padded bellow tongue. The EVA (ethyl vinyl acetate) sole, which is compression moulded to the contours of the instep, is rubber with octopus-like suction pads. It also looks like it was designed around a foot rather than designed with a foot squeezed into it afterwards.
Style: ☆☆☆☆
Anything else worth considering? Timberland's Gorge MPO (£65, 0345 669 988) for excursions above the tree line. It has a nubuck leather upper with breathable mesh panels in stylish colour combinations (the stone/orange combination is the best), arch support and a moisture-licking climate-control lining. The sole has a big, protective rubber outsole coupled to a lightweight EVA compression-moulded midsole for superior comfort and shock absorption, which should dissipate the energy from any swift manoeuvre (such as leaping backwards to avoid a runaway trolley in Homebase).

On the skateboard

Name: Vans Unkel
Price: £49.99
Stockist: 0181-877 9907
Description: Vans suede skateboarding shoes have surpassed the canvas Converse Chuck Taylor All-stars basketball shoe as the all-American sneaker wear. Both are hardworking, basic flat shoes, that place little emphasis on inner sole technology or arch support – in fact, they both epitomise why your mum wanted you to wear proper fitting shoes from Clarks. The Unkel adheres to Vans' traditional two-tone upper, waffle-soled style. We like them in black and charcoal, but the navy/grey combination is equally restrained.
Style: ☆☆☆☆
Anything else worth considering? If you want something which looks more scientific, the DC Legacy (£84.99, 0181-427 2812) – in subtle greys with bright orange, navy or lime details – look like America's military intelligence was put to work on their construction, and the result is a strong, supportive, comfortable shoe with a high-density, foam-padded collar and a polyurethane arch support. If you prefer something more basic, then the retro, all-black or all-white Adidas Stan Smith leather tennis shoes (£40, 0161 419 2839) are what to be seen skating around town in this year.

On asphalt

Name: Adidas KB8 II
Price: £80
Stockist: 0161 419 2839
Description: A case of once bitten, twice sky high. Having already missed out on conquering the American market with Michael Jordan – who apparently said he'd prefer to go with the three stripes if they could match Nike's offer – Adidas have pinned their colours to the LA Lakers number 8, Kobe Bryant, hence the acronym for these basketball boots. The ankle-hugging, foot-cradling, space-age KB8 II uses all Adidas's latest technology, from the light but lumpy adiPRENE shock-absorbing sole to the Torsion Extension which offers stability while maximising flexibility. Where it's not overwhelmed by the ridged, moulded soul, the mesh upper is a shimmering silvery black.
Style: ☆☆☆
Anything else worth considering? Nike Air Terra Ketchikan (£89.99, 0800 056 1640), if horizontal spring, not vertical elevation, is the key. This outdoor, hard-wearing running shoe, combines a high traction, air-suctioned sole with a Gore-Tex waterproof upper.

SHAUN PHILLIPS
DEPUTY EDITOR, ZM MAGAZINE

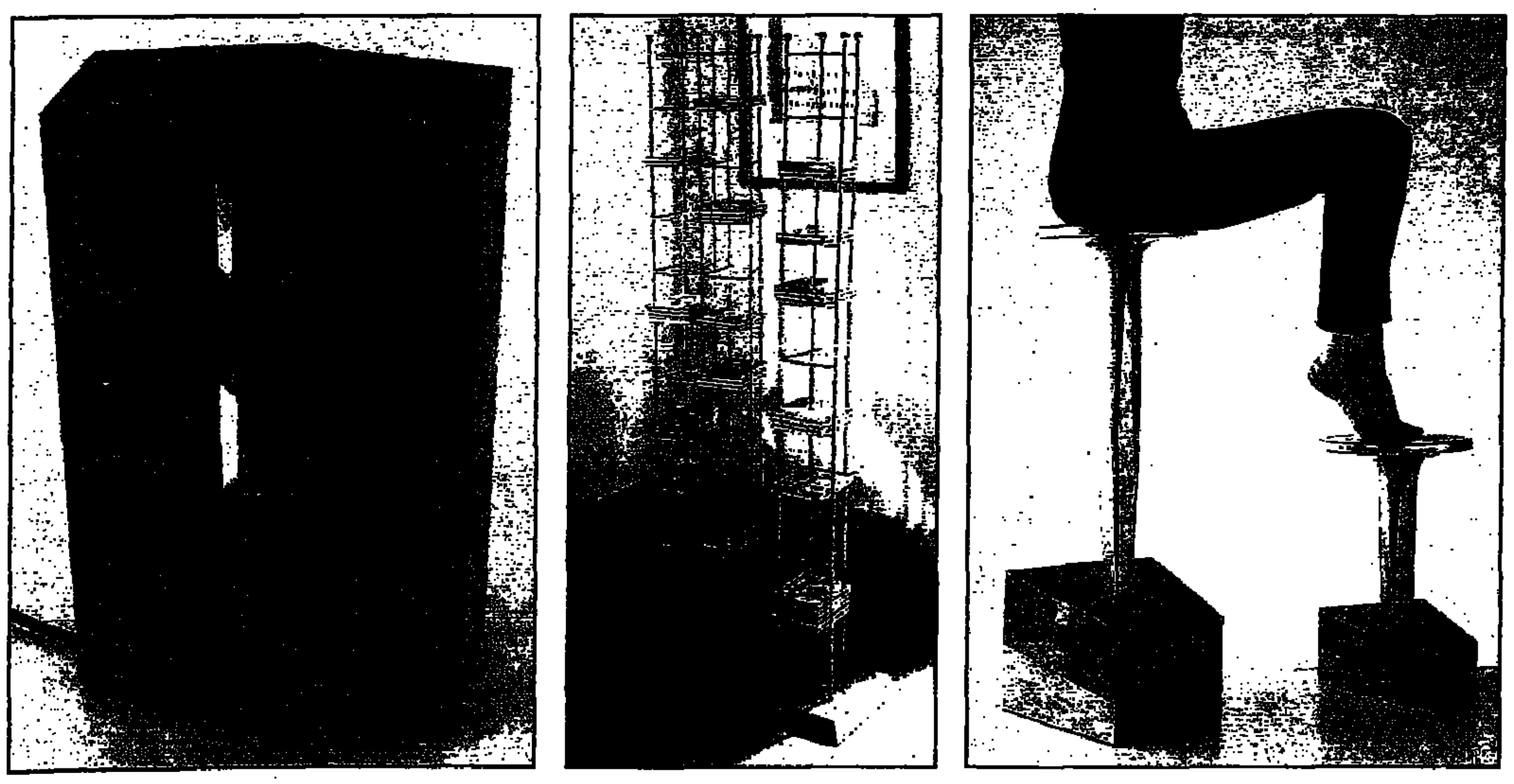
CHECK IT OUT
BUILDING-SITE CHIC

FROM BACKYARD to bedroom, the newest look for the home comes straight from the nearest building site. But, before you get all house proud and rush off to dig out the dust-covers, this isn't a rusty, mud-splashed kind of look, but merely a nod to construction and a smirk at the materials your home was made from. From giant upturned nails to sit on, to scaffolding for your CD collection, if you want to lay the foundations for a fashionable home, start with the basics.

Before you so much as pick up your tool kit (a collection of glamorous catalogues and a decent glass of wine), make sure you're dressed for the matter in hand. And no, that doesn't mean builder's-bum jeans and a paint-spattered T-shirt. It means the Work Suit from Aero (£19.50, 0181-971 0[illegible] ✉), a work overall *à la* Beastie Boys, that comes in a tin and is available in one size only – large, of course, to let out the builder in you.

Next, build the appropriate mood with some well-constructed lighting. The Road Cone Lamp costs £27.50 from British Home Stores (enquiries, 0171-262 3288) has a simple, soft white glow. For something more fabricationally full-on, opt instead for Mark Howard's concrete lamp with steel rods. The table-lamp sized creation costs £240 from Jon Old (0171-565 8808) and gives off a pale luminescence.

Once you've got your lighting sorted, turn to industry for style tips on storage solutions and invest in some scaffolding media towers from McCord (0870 908 7020 ✉). Modern and utilitarian, the aluminium-effect rod structures are reminiscent of scaffolding, they're the perfect way to support CDs, videos or cassette tapes. CD towers start at £11.95 for a structure that holds 30 discs but, if you're aiming for a high-rise kind of look, the effect is multiplied by the taller units. A 264-CD tower costs £74.95. Floral displays will also benefit from high-rise housing. Opal London (0181-208 0708 ✉) has galvanised metal window-boxes from £9.50 each.


Mark Howard's concrete lamp, £240, Jon Old (0171-565 8808); construct your own storage with Scaffolding Media Towers, from £11.95, McCord (0870 908 7020 ✉); Nail Stools, from £165, Stephen Einhorn (0171-359 4977)

For those little things you need to keep tidily tucked away, the Gail Robbins metallic collection (available from Home Elements ✉, 0800 3285351) is ideal. Each design varies slightly but the basic choice is between the hat box (£139), document box (£120) and petrol can (£55): the latter is far too pretty to deposit anywhere near a garage.

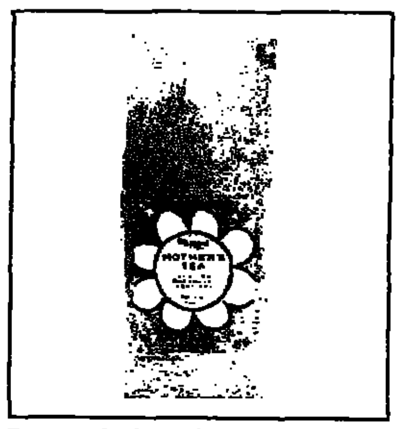
Practical types can follow the example of Aussie plumbers who are apparently far too stylish for their own good and keep their tools stowed away in the back of their "utes" in sleek, galvanised trunks. Ocean Home Shopping (0870 848 4840 ✉) stocks something similar in a choice of two sizes (£19.95/ £24.95). Both have sturdy carrying handles should you need to move them.

Continue the theme in the bathroom with practical wire shelves, £55 each from House (01258 454 884 ✉) before moving swiftly on to the bedroom. Smarten up a sloppy boudoir with zinc and mesh bedside tables from The Holding Company (£75, 0171-610 9160 ✉) and stylishly mark out your bedtime territory with Fence 100 per cent cotton bed linen from Habitat (0645 334433). Prices start at £15 for a pillowcase. Finally, it's back to where you started, with somewhere comfortable to sit and survey your handy work. Camarat stackable armchairs cost £89 each from Habitat (0645 334433 for nearest store) and are made from moulded, galvanised metal. Alternatively, perch on a Nail Stool, from Stephen Einhorn (0171-359 4977). Prices range from £165 for a small Nail Stool with a soft wood base and go up to £495 for a large stool with a hard wood base.

RHIANNON BATTEN

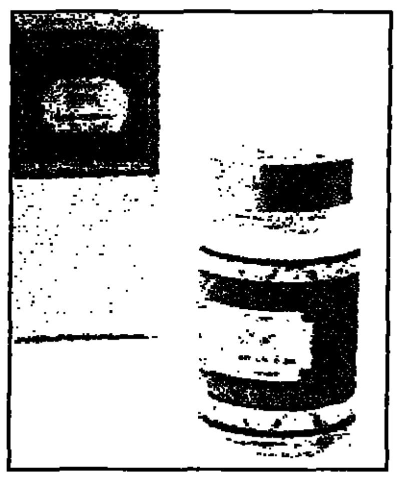
SIX OF THE BEST
MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS – 14 MARCH

Crabtree & Evelyn's telephone shopping service will arrange delivery of their Aromathology Relaxation Kit containing three products at half the usual price, just £19.99 (0171-603 1611 for stockists ✉)


Brew an invigorating and cheering cuppa – Mother's Tea, £2.75, Whittard (0171-924 1888 ✉, 0800 525 092 for stockists)

For a gloriously colourful bunch of tulips call Nicholas at Harper & Tom's, from £25 (0171-792 8510) with free local delivery, or delivery elsewhere from £7

Even republican matriachs will enjoy this golden jewel-studded Royal Shower Cap, £19.95, Presents Direct (0181-246 4377 ✉)


Soothe her hands and spirit with hand cream made with organically-grown rose oil, £15, Persian Rose (rosarians@btinternet.com, 01785 840 217 ✉)

Sponsor the planting of a tree to make hers a brighter borough and help regenerate urban areas in the process, £35, Trees for London (0171-407 0888)

New Romeo rekindles a love affair

The Alfa 166 re-establishes the Italian car-maker's street cred and gives the Germans a run for their money. By **John Simister**

Jaded by the German cars that monopolise the grander end of the carscape? Then try this for size: a new car with a super-evocative marque name from a company that zoomed back into credibility a year or so ago with one of the tastiest-looking cars to pitch up in dealers' showrooms for quite some time. We are, of course, talking Alfa Romeo.

THE INDEPENDENT

ROAD TEST

Specifically, we are talking Alfa 166. As its name suggests, there's a clear relationship with the deliciously-looking 156, but it's bigger. Here we're chasing BMW Fives and Audi A6s, rather than BMW Threes and Audi A4s. Is it a hopeless quest?

It shouldn't be, if Alfa Romeo has learnt from past cost-cutting and golden-goose killing. The handsome 164, which the 166 replaces, was a case of nearly but not quite. With the 166, Alfa Romeo aims to do the job properly. And that means building a car which not only looks desirable, but which is properly designed and put together and gives a good drive without excuses.

Has Alfa found the plot? Let's begin on the inside, in a cabin as attention-grabbing as its rivals' are discreet. It's the swathe of contrasting colour and texture that does it, beginning across the bottom of the dashboard, expanding into a sweep across the front doors, rising and broadening as it continues into the rear doors. It pulls the interior into one unified vision.

Then there's the dashboard itself, with chrome-rimmed, overlapping instruments, and a centre console – it looks better in metallised grey than in the optional not-wood – which contains an "integrated control system". This shows, on an LCD screen, the settings and readings for the stereo, the air-conditioning and the trip computer, and options include satellite navigation and a built-in telephone, for which you will need a SIM card. If you have a mobile phone, it will probably contain one.

Be sure to follow the instructions and enter the right pin number. The first 166 I drove, in Italy, had its computer menu in Italian, and I didn't do quite as I was asked. The result was that the Alfa's phone destroyed my SIM card, so ending a week in which I locked myself out of my house, was stopped for speeding in France and suffered my worst-ever computer crash.

You might expect this to have set me against the Alfa, but it didn't. Now, reacquainted with it in right-hand-drive UK form, I remember why I liked it so much. The looks play a part, less startling than the 156's style but still dramatic, with a bold scallop along the sides, headlights so slim they look like sidelights, and a high tail adorned only by two tapering tail-lights illuminated by a bank of light-emitting diodes instead of mere bulbs. It's a pity the nose extends so far beyond the front wheels, though.

There are three engine variants, and the two extremes are better than the one in the middle. Grandest is a 3.0-litre V6 matched to a six-speed gearbox; next down is a 2.5-litre V6 which lacks puff at low revs; and humblest is a 2.0-litre, four-cylinder with balancer shafts and "Twin Spark" ignition (two spark plugs per cylinder, long an Alfa speciality).

This sweet-spinning, crisp-sounding 2.0-litre propels the hefty Alfa with surprising vigour if you use its ready revvability. There's little real need for anything more muscular, especially as you'll also get the slickest gearchange and lightest clutch. The V6's clutches are tiringly heavy, so you might be better off with the Sportronic automatic option.

The Twin Spark is also the most agile, thanks to its lighter front end. Actually, I can't think of a big, front-wheel-drive saloon that handles better. The steering is direct and well weighted, and the front wheels bite hard into the road long after you expected them to drift towards the outside of the bend. Much of this is down to the clever rear suspension, which helps to point the nose tidily into the next twist with just a flick of the steering.

It's comfortable, too, with a firm but rounded ride, supportive seats and a good view forward over the low bonnet. And I'm pleased to report that it's also the most solidly built Alfa I have yet encountered, with door hinges that would surely support the door of a bank vault. The trim parts fit unexpectedly well, too, although the hard plastic lid of the dash-top storage box feels disappointingly cheap.

So, as good as the German competition? Yes. Better? Probably not. Different? Very ... This is a car with real spirit, more a companion than a high-class transport tool. It's a proper Alfa, but upsized and without maddening oddnesses. See, it's possible after all.

Whichever way you look at it, the Alfa 166 manages to be dashing and solid at the same time

SPECIFICATIONS

Make and model: Alfa 166 2.0 Twin Spark
Price: £23,371
Engine: 1,970cc, four cylinders, 16 valves; produces 155bhp at 6,400rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed gearbox, front-wheel drive.
Performance: Top speed: 132mph; acceleration: 0-60 in 9.4 seconds; economy: 24-29mpg.

RIVALS

Audi A6 1.8T: £23,703. Latter-day Bauhaus looks, terrific build quality, lively pace from turbo engine, but less fun to drive than the Alfa.
BMW 520i: £24,405. Six-cylinder engine is smooth but lacks low-revs pull; again, it is beautifully built, but the whole car has a clumsy feel after experiencing the Alfa.
Saab 9-5 2.0T: £22,795. Lusty turbo engine gives the Saab strong pace, and 9-5 has the world's best cup-holder. Rather a squashy drive, though.
Volvo S70 2.5 20V: £21,795. Good-value Volvo is showing its age but is lively, and the five-cylinder engine sounds great.

And now: the refrigerator on wheels

The days of melted drivers are over. Air-conditioning is soon going to be the new-car norm. By **John Simister**

WITH CENTRAL-HEATING systems firing up all around, it is hard to conceive of summer motoring, even if it is now barely a few months away. In any event, what passes for a heatwave in this country is unlikely to cause us much trouble in our cars – most of the time anyway.

Last year, though, my family and I experienced an Italian summer so hot that even the Tuscans were complaining. It peaked at 42C, which equates in old money to 108F. But it's no problem if you're travelling in a car with air-conditioning. You stay cool, calm, alert and road-rage free. Even the chocolate stays solid.

How on globally-warmed Earth did we cope without "air", as the motor trade likes to call it? Because, until recently, most people didn't realise there was an affordable escape from the hell of a mobile oven. Now, though, air-conditioning is the fastest-growing option of all in terms of customer take-up, with prices falling as awareness is rising.

Let's take Renault as an example, whose Mégane Scenic kept the family Simister cool back in August last year. In 1996, 29.8 per cent of its new passenger cars were air-conditioned, and once you got to the mid-size Laguna and above, the proportion rose to more than half. A year later, 1997's figures show 41.6 per cent of all Renaults, and three-quarters of the Laguna-and-upwards models, to be air-conned, and even the great universal Mégane broke the 50 per cent barrier.

Visteon, a Ford-owned maker of air-conditioning and electronic systems which also supplies other companies, predicts that 80 per cent of new cars supplied in the EU will be air-conditioned by 2005, compared with 35 per cent in 1997 and 10 per cent in 1990. Ford-specific figures were 52 per cent – more than Renault – in 1997, up from 4 per cent in 1990. "We're still behind the US, though," says Visteon's Shirley Hayden, "which was at 90 per cent in 1997."

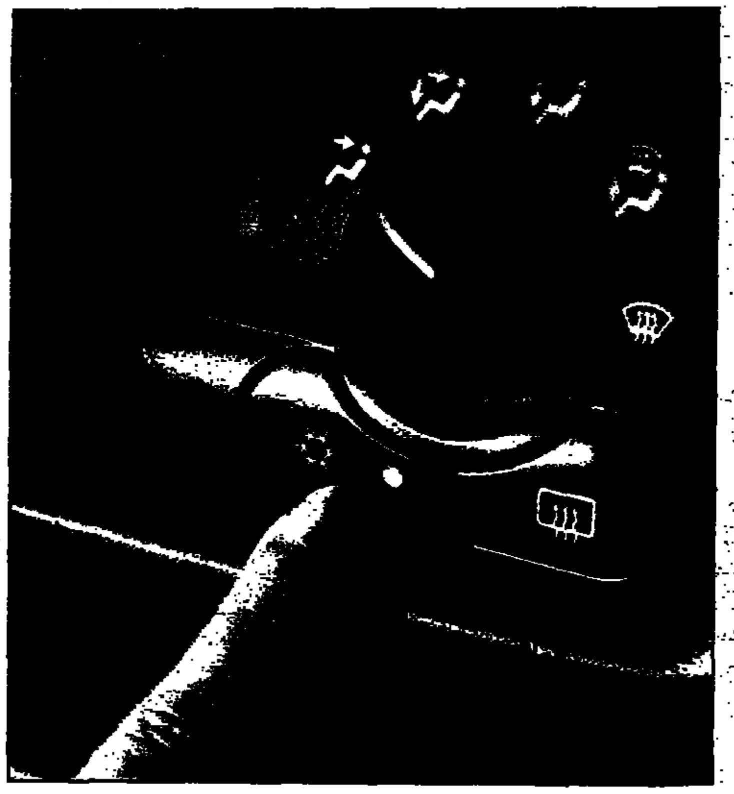
Peugeot was one of the prime kick-starters of the new air-con culture. The final 405s came with the chilling breeze in a last-gasp sales push, and it coincided neatly with a hot summer. "It was well received," says Peugeot spokesman Chris Edwards, "so for the then-new 406 we decided to offer air-con in lieu of a sun-roof, for an extra £350. We did the same thing with the revised 306 last year except that, during the summer, we offered it free of charge. It was a good marketing tool. The way of the future will be sun-roof or air-conditioning, with no price differential, as we are offering on the new 206."

Ah yes, the sun-roof. Not so long ago this was an essential badge of status, even if many of them stayed shut. This could be a problem for some, because a sun-roof is visible and air-con is not. But air-con is the smarter option, more discreet, better suited to the less showy 1990s. More useful, too, for there are sound practical reasons for having air-conditioning in a modern car.

Ever bigger and more sloping windows present a larger surface area to the sky, which makes the car heat up more in the sun, and the smooth airflow over modern aerodynamic shapes means there's less chance of the air blasting its way into the cabin. That's why the ventilation in many modern cars is feeble unless you turn the fan on. However, if the incoming air is chilled, you need less of it to keep the cabin comfortable.

Some people might object to air-conditioning on environmental grounds, but it isn't an issue. An engine will use more fuel when it is driving the system's compressor pump, but greater damage is done to fuel economy if you open a window or a sun-roof because of the air turbulence that results. Nor is there a problem with modern refrigerants, because today's R134a liquid, used by all manufacturers, is CFC-free. And with all this chilling of air going on, global warming could perhaps cease altogether (but don't quote me on that one).

Air-conditioning is soon going to be the new-car norm, but you can get your present car refrigerated, too – at a price. Alpinair in Middlesex (0181-204 9633) can cool something like a Ford Escort for £1,475 plus VAT, using a system which works just like Ford's own. If you're not planning on selling for a while, it's worth considering. It should add to your car's value, too. Cool, yes?



Love is in the air-conditioning

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MY WORST CAR

NICK FERRARI'S TRIUMPH TR4A

It handled atrociously – well, it was six cars glued together

I COULD tell you all about my Lancia. It was a beautiful thing, styled by Pininfarina, but that company had a terrible reputation for making rusty cars and mine was depreciating by the minute. I fancied having something sexy and stylish; then, by some strange coincidence, a garage selling Triumph sports cars opened up in the next Kent village to where I lived. So I traded my Lancia and for £500 drove away in a beautiful blue TR4a.

There I was, 22 years old, with my first-ever convertible. It was springtime, I had a wonderful girlfriend and I had just started to do shifts at the *Sunday Mirror*. Life seemed to be just about perfect and I had visions of me pulling up in great style in my Triumph on Fleet Street and getting loads of admiring glances.

Unfortunately, it didn't quite work out like that. For a start it rained a lot, and so I soon discovered that the hood did not exactly fit, and I was totally soaked the whole time. Rather more seriously, the Triumph was a total nightmare to drive.

The special feature of the TR4a was that it had independent rear suspension, but on my model it was a little too independent. In fact it had a mind of its own. I would describe it as trying to get a mule train across ice.

Now, I'm not the best driver in the world, but I could barely control the thing. Taking a right-hander meant parking up and having a bit of a rest before attempting such a heart-stopping manoeuvre.

Obviously something was wrong. Unfortunately, the dealer who had sold it to me had by now shut down. Luckily, a friend's father ran a garage and put it on a ramp. He pointed out all the welds and it seemed that I had bought a cut-and-shut. But rather than just two cars, I think there were half-a-dozen stuck together.

Using all my journalistic skills, I traced the dealer to west London. His house was just around the corner from Lady Diana's, whom I had been doorstopping with the rest of the press pack. So as I sat in the Triumph, my mates were nipping around the corner to use the phone box and saw me sitting there. They thought I'd found another royal girlfriend, so dozens of them came around the corner with all their tripods and ladders. By the time the dodgy dealer opened his front door, he thought that I had brought a media mob with me and so he gave me all my money back on the spot.

Nick Ferrari presents the 'Big Boy's Breakfast' with David Banks on Talk Radio 1053/1089 AM weekdays, 6am-9am. He was talking to James Ruppert

The TR4a – like driving a mule train over ice

هكذا من الاعلى

On the bonny, bonny banks of... Lewisham

When a man leaves London after 30 years for Loch Lomond, the ending should be 'and he lived happily ever after'. But, as Iain Campbell discovered, the Scottish dream isn't always easy. By **Penny Jackson**

It is difficult to imagine anyone choosing to swap a home in a picturesque Scottish coastal town for a semi in Lewisham. But hotelier Iain Campbell misses the buzz of south-east London so much that he wants to give up the quiet life among lochs and golf courses for something altogether busier, noisier and dirtier.

His plea for help in returning to "popular, trendy Lewisham" is unlikely to have fallen on deaf ears. The thought of settling in an idyllic spot near Loch Lomond could have more than a few southerners posting their keys to Mr Campbell, a Glaswegian who had lived in London for 30 years.

Scotland has always attracted the English in search of a way of life they feel no longer exists south of the border. Tight-knit communities where values are unsullied and the countryside is unspoilt are magnets for anyone disenchanted with life in the fast lane.

Not that it always works out. The English cannot expect to be universally welcomed – at least, not until they have proved their worthiness. John Brown of DTZ Debenham Thorpe, property advisers, says immediately that there are many who have amalgamated extremely well, and whose presence has helped save schools and services.

But, he adds, there are those who have a knack of raising hackles. "Unless they are part of the sailing community on the periphery of the Highlands – the yellow-boot brigade – they'll not win friends by throwing their money around and offering to buy everyone in the bar a drink. The more isolated the place, the easier it is to give offence."

The Scots, like the Australians, have an equally dim view of the Pommy whinger. "Some newcomers have a summer calendar picture of Scotland and no one is [illegible] than the complainer. It's so [illegible] gets dark early. The power goes [illegible]. The price of petrol is high. There's nothing in the local shops but mince.' And on they go," says John Brown. "They have to be prepared for the reality. Fair-weather sailors soon find they can't cope."

Richard Fairbairns and his wife Judy moved to the island of Mull, from Norfolk, 17 years ago because they wanted to bring up their family with the values of a small community. "Our five children were educated here and it has given them everything we ever hoped for. My wife is a townie and found it hard at the beginning, but then so was farming in Norfolk. We desperately wanted to get away from commercialism to something gentler.

"There are some English who like the idea of a new life, but don't change their attitudes. It is no good coming here and throwing your weight around. You can't demand the plumber turns up the next day or expect to pop to the supermarket whenever you want. Life is planned differently.

"The majority of people on Mull are incomers – Scottish, English and a smattering of other Europeans – and inevitably some of the old ways have been lost," says Richard Fairbairns.

In their place, he and others like him have expanded the horizons of tourism. Well-known for his study of whales, Fairbairns has built up an eco-tourist business offering trips to spot dolphins, sea-birds and whales. This is now for sale, alongside Torrbreac House, which they built eight years ago, plus a guest lodge. Not that the family is abandoning the island: "Our roots are fantastically deep."

Emma Smith is used to being called a Surrey Highlander. Her parents ran a small hotel near Pitlochry and she can recall their difficult first years. "Some didn't want our business because we were English, and the local tourist board was hardly welcoming. It took time and a sense of humour. It doesn't help that local people cannot always afford the larger houses, so that [illegible]. But where else can you find roe deer in your garden and walk for miles without ever seeing a soul?"

Richard and Judy Fairbairn are selling up their business in Mull *Drew Farrell*

There is certainly no shortage of English buyers. James Denne of Knight Frank's Lauder office, in Berwickshire, rarely needs to put a house on the open market. He has lists of people looking for a country house with a few acres. The borders take them out of the rat race but within commuting distance of Edinburgh.

"That doesn't mean to say they don't have to adapt. The towns are proudly Scottish but on the whole harmonious," says Denne. A three- or four-bedroom house with outbuildings and a bit of land starts at about £200,000 – particularly tactless is buying a place that needs doing up and then importing English builders.

Burgeoning Scottish nationalism has unsettled a few. John Brown detects some scaremongering, not helped by the "rather ridiculous *Braveheart* process", while Iain Campbell was reported as having noticed a new strident anti-Englishness among a small minority.

But if it is a vibrant urban life that Mr Campbell is hankering after, why does he have to return to London? After all, his home city of Glasgow – this year's City of Architecture and Design – arguably has a great deal more to offer than "popular, trendy" Lewisham.

Torrbreac House, Mull: offers over £295,000 with DTZ Debenham Thorpe (0131-459 2222)

STEPPING STONES

ONE COUPLE'S PROPERTY STORY

High five: Edna and Stephen Cosgrove

EDNA AND Stephen Cotgrove have bought and sold five properties but started life together in London's Old Kent Road, when their weekly rent was 18 shillings: "The floor sloped and it was pretty derelict," recalls Edna.

In 1949, life took a turn for the better when they inherited a turn-of-the-century semi in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, valued then at £750. With the arrival of three children, the couple had outgrown their home, which they sold in 1957 for £1,300. They spent £3,000 on a detached, 1920s four-bedroom property "up the hill". This needed renovation and the Cotgroves knocked down walls and uncovered fireplaces. "We were there for 10 years and it was a very happy time."

A new post for Stephen meant moving to Bath, though Edna was less than keen: "I had to be carried there kicking and screaming, and was adamant that I would not live in a house made of Bath stone." In 1967 they sold their 1920s house for £7,500 and for £9,300 bought a detached property with five bedrooms, half an acre and tennis courts – importantly for Edna, it was white.

By 1981 the children had left home and Stephen had retired. They sold their detached house for £67,000 and, for £75,000, "settled for a six-bedroom mansion with fantastic views" – and in need of renovation – on the edge of Bath.

In 1985, Edna retired from teaching and the couple decided to return to the east coast. They sold for £150,000, doubling their money in four years, and bought a grade II listed house in Woodbridge, Suffolk for £160,000.

They have been here for 14 years, but after a fall Edna has decided that the three-storey home may be impractical in spite of Stephen's kind adaptation: "a thick mat at the foot of the stairs". They are now selling for £430,000 and are about to buy a nearby property crafted from the wing of a Georgian house.

Edna is pleased with their purchases and has this advice for today's buyers: "Whatever you buy, even if it is a house on an estate, make it different and special."

GINETTA VEDRICKAS

Those moves in brief

1949 – inherited semi valued at £750, sold for £1,300.
1957 – bought detached four-bedroom for £3,000, sold for £7,500.
1967 – bought five-bedroom house in Bath for £9,300, sold for £67,000.
1981 – bought six-bedroom mansion for £75,000, sold for £150,000.
1985 – bought grade II Woodbridge house for £160,000, sold for £430,000 in February 1999.

If you would like your moves to be featured write to: Nic Cicutti, Stepping Stones, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL. £100 will be awarded for the best story printed before 31 March 1999

Forget the fresh coffee

The smell of a hot cup of Java or a newly baked loaf of bread are no longer enough to get your house selling. By **Fiona Brandhorst**

HOW MUCH work do you need to do to your house before you sell it? Does it really make any difference to its asking price or to the speed of its sale?

Having had a good valuation it is tempting just to put your house on the market as seen – if the estate agent is impressed then surely a potential buyer will be. The jury is still out on whether presentation, or lack of it, can deter someone from buying a property. But if location is considered the most important factor in selling your home then presentation must come a close second.

Most estate agents now produce a sales pack where you'll find a section called something like "home enhancement". Its advice may seem like common sense: freshly swept paths, weeded flower beds and pretty window boxes – and that's just the exterior – but when we have decided to move on, apathy can set in. Suddenly it's not worth spending money or time on something we are going to leave behind. Or is it?

Stephen Smith from Bushells estate agents in south London, suggests "practical and inexpensive" measures when marketing your house. "Obviously it's not cost effective to replace your kitchen and bathroom when selling your house, but they are important areas and should look their best." He suggests cleaning windows and removing clutter to start with.

"People get rid of their window cleaner for incompetence and then never clean the windows themselves," he adds. "It is vital to let as much light as possible into a property."

But Mr Smith warns against hiding problems. "Don't start decorating if the general appearance is OK, but it is a good idea to tackle things like peeling paint."

Houses tend to fall into one of two categories: always clean and tidy or hopelessly untidy. I guess most of us would like to be judged somewhere between the two – but remember that few estate agents are going to risk telling you to get vacuuming, as that is likely to put their instruction in jeopardy.

So impartial, constructive advice would be welcomed by most vendors. Which is probably why Channel 5 found itself with a hit on its hands when the first series of *House Doctor* was shown last year. Selected houses that remained unsold after around three months had a visit from an American styling guru, Ann Maurice, who offered practical tips on how to improve saleability from repainting rooms to removing redundant furniture. Sales were subsequently achieved for most of the homes featured.

Ed Stobart is producing the second series (to be shown in May). Had his team come across any really disgusting homes in their research? He is diplomatic in his response. "It is always a little painful seeing yourself as other people see you, but we don't humiliate people. That is not what the programme's about."

A Feng Shui consultant, Mary Lambert, stresses the need for energy flowing harmoniously through the house. "Less clutter and more storage is very important. If there's a lot of clutter, energy can't move through the property. I would also suggest repairing loose guttering or replacing cracked windows. These create negative energy and would not make the vendor feel good. A consultant could look at the property and highlight any other factors that might affect the sale."

According to Hilary Dalke from the Colour Design Research Centre at Southbank University, first impressions really do count. "No matter how good your home looks inside, if the exterior is unappealing, prospective purchasers may just drive by."

And the front door should look inviting. A survey by the Alliance and Leicester Building Society revealed blue front doors to be the most popular, followed by green and red.

The dividends are in the details *Mark Chilvers*

Once inside, Mr Smith from Bushells advises against too much cleaning up, but he does advise that dogs should be banished to your car or taken on a long walk when someone comes to view. Growling mutts are a definite turn off, as are demanding children. Families may prefer to drop off the keys at the estate agents and go out for the day.

Indirectly, photographer Gordon Atkins could be responsible for getting people through your door, as he is employed by a growing number of estate agents who have realised the benefits of professional photography.

Is it difficult to make the most of some properties? "Not really. Most people spend quite a bit of money on their houses, so I concentrate on the best features. The hardest job I've had is photographing a house in north London to show it was worth £25m."

Mr Atkins also believes first impressions can be deceptive. "I've looked at a house from the outside and thought: 'No way,' but inside it's been: 'Wow'."

By viewing a couple of properties yourself you will know what works for you and what to look out for when you get home. Well-lit rooms with open doors, fresh flowers and an even temperature are good pointers. It seems the sound of Vivaldi, and the smells of fresh coffee and baking bread have thankfully been laid to rest.

Mary Lambert 0181-947 4145; Gordon Atkins Photography, 0973 728065

TOP TEN TIPS FOR SELLING YOUR PROPERTY

- Clean windows
- Repaint front door, if chipped, and polish door furniture
- Cut back, weed and sweep gardens
- Remove clutter everywhere
- Keep the kitchen and bathrooms clean and tidy
- Use lighting in dark rooms
- Display quality fresh flowers
- Plan children-free and dog-free viewing
- Avoid strong aromas
- Instruct your solicitor as soon as possible

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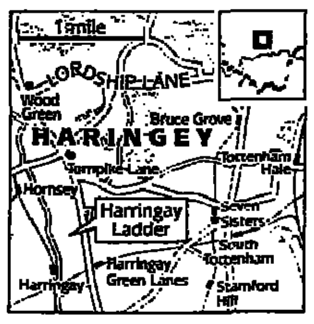
HOT SPOT

SOUTH TOTTENHAM, NORTH LONDON

Climbing up the Ladder



A sinking ship, holed beneath the waterline, is generally not going anywhere except the ocean floor. And the riots in 1985 on the Broadwater Farm estate, during which PC Keith Blakelock was murdered, resulted in South Tottenham's reputation plummeting bottomwards.

But sunken ships are not necessarily beyond repair. "Broadwater Farm has improved dramatically, and sections of South Tottenham, such as Downhills Park, are getting overspill from the Harringay Ladder [*see 'The Low-Down' below*], where prices are jumping," says Clive Dickman, of Cousins estate agents.

He admits that "a stigma attaches to Tottenham, but it is no longer justified". In Mr Dickman's case it is hard to dismiss this assertion as estate-agent hyperbole, as he is one of those who has moved to London N15 from the Ladder.

Jeff Vegden, of Bairstow Eves, agrees that South Tottenham "is not the best area in the world. It is a bit on the rough side, but not terrible." He feels, too, that N15 is not much different from many other inner-city areas. "No matter where you go you get these problems. There are council estates on the edge of many nice areas."

The strengths as well as the weaknesses of the area are reflected in the sort of people buying property in South Tottenham: "Young professionals are attracted to the area because it is only 15 minutes on the Victoria Line to the West End," says Mr Dickman.

"They tend to be single or married with young children. The parents seem happy with the primary schools, but they leave when the children reach secondary school age."

Families are also deterred by the types of property available in N15. Although there are many houses, including a good number of period properties, only a small proportion are large and many of those have been converted into flats.

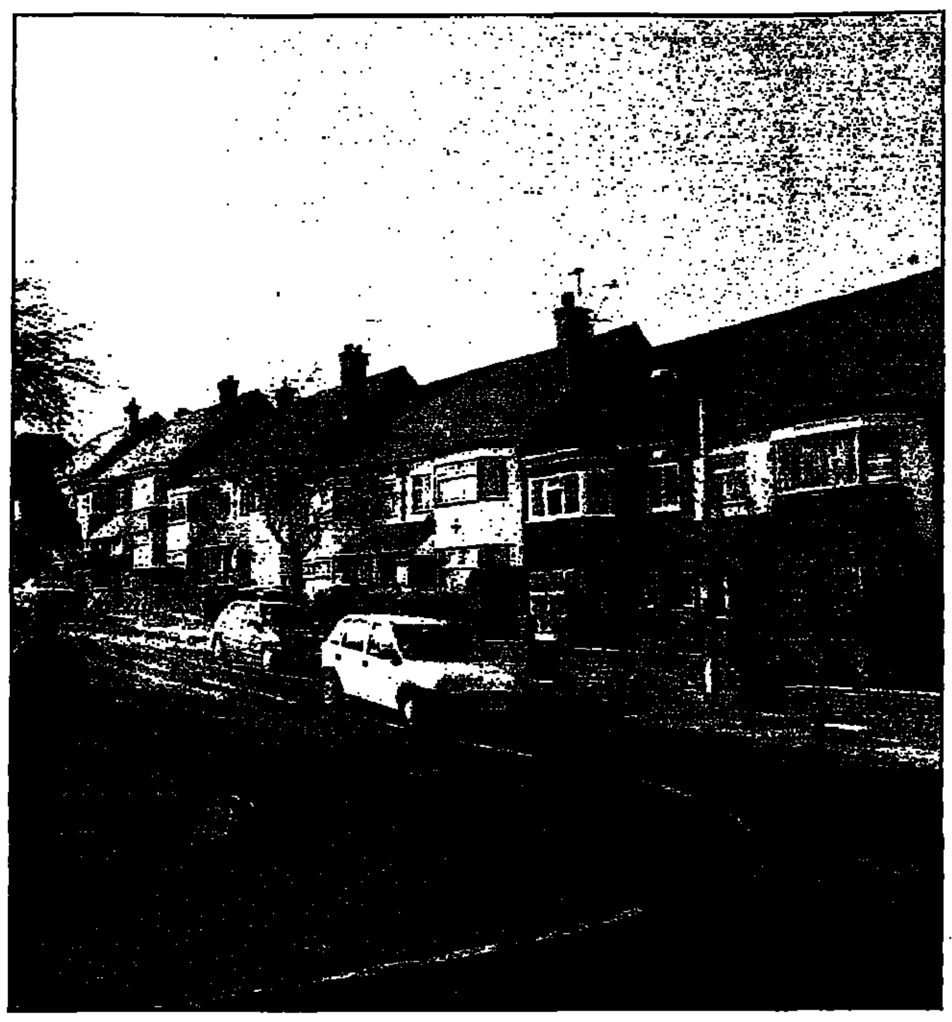
However, transport is good. The area is served by the tube, in the shape of the Victoria Line, and several overground rail lines. The one neighbourhood that lacks rail links is Downhills Park, on the southern edge of Broadwater Farm, but it has the compensation of containing some of N15's nicest roads and houses. And the remoteness is tempered by good bus connections.

Quite a few residential streets co-exist with light industry. Many roads are dominated by renters, not owner-occupiers. And the housing stock varies. "Victorian properties were built during different periods in that era, and the later properties are not as big or visually impressive as the early ones. Some of them are workmen's houses," says Mr Vegden. "Rental is very strong," he adds. "Yields are high because the prices are so low."

Despite the riots, then, South Tottenham is increasingly attractive to professionals. Margery Peddie, a press officer with Waltham Forest Council, was raised in South Tottenham but moved away. However, she says she would have been happy to have bought there. "I was never victimised by crime, even though I grew up near Broadwater Farm and I lived there during the riots," she comments. "I never even saw any crime during the nearly 20 years I lived there."

Mr Vegden believes that, "being just outside the chosen area, we will always be popular because of price. The Harringay Ladder will pull South Tottenham up by its bootlaces."

ROBERT LIEBMAN



Downhills Park typifies the new face of Tottenham *Philip Meech*

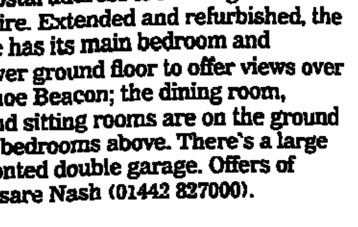
THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: Many flats and houses are priced in the £70-£80,000 range, usually for two or three bedrooms. Some flats are more expensive than houses with the same number of rooms. Second-hand flats in recently built houses are occasionally available, as are three-storey three-bedroom period houses, which cost £125-£150,000.
Cheap and cheerful: Ex-council flats are often available for £40,000 and less.
Transport: Solidly Zone 3, N15 has two Underground stations – Seven Sisters (Victoria Line) and Turnpike Lane (Piccadilly Line) – both lines converge at Finsbury Park, which connects with a rail line to King's Cross and another to Old Street and Moorgate. The Gospel Oak-Barking line (Silverlink North London) has stops at Tottenham Hale and Seven Sisters. The latter also serves a line into Liverpool Street.
Position, position, position: Some properties are very close to stations. A two-bedroom end-of-terrace house on Birstall Road is a skip to Seven Sisters station and is selling for less than £80,000.
Shopping and dining: Superstores inhabit the former Haringey Stadium, and the Wood Green Shopping Centre is nearby. There's a good range of Caribbean, Turkish, Italian and Greek restaurants, and good pubs.
Council tax: In Haringey, Band A is £570 and Band H is £1,712.
Something for everyone: To the west, Alexandra Palace Park has a lake, a pub, and an outstanding panoramic view. To the east, a river, sporting grounds, a nature reserve and marshland.
Harringay (*sic*) Ladder? Find Umfreville Road, N4, in your street atlas. Now find Sydney Road. Now you know why it is called the Harringay Ladder.
Estate agents: Bairstow Eves (0181-809 5050); Cousins (0181-800 9688)

THREE TO VIEW

REFLECTED GLORY

SEABROOK LOCK Cottage stands reflected in the water of the Grand Union Canal at Ivinghoe, in Buckinghamshire. The three-bedroom detached house, built in 1821, is reached via a 400-yard tow-path drive licensed from British Waterways. However, although the white-painted house stands in Bucks, for the convenience of the Royal Mail its postal address is Nr. Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. Extended and refurbished, the three-storey cottage has its main bedroom and bathroom on the lower ground floor to offer views over the canal and Ivinghoe Beacon; the dining room, breakfast/kitchen and sitting rooms are on the ground floor with two more bedrooms above. There's a large garden and open-fronted double garage. Offers of £270,000 through Cesare Nash (01442 827000).



WESTWOOD HOUSE looms majestically above its gardens to ripple in its ornamental pool, on the outskirts of Droitwich Spa, in Worcestershire. Grade I listed, the Elizabethan mansion now consists of 12 apartments, of which The Salon, on the first floor, is now for sale. Originally the ballroom, it has a 47ft by 28ft 4in drawing room with ornate plasterwork ceiling, chandelier and carved fire surround. It looks out on to what was Westwood Park. It has a large kitchen, ritzy bathroom, master bedroom suite and a guest suite. The shared driveway leads to garaging for three cars. Offers of £255,000 through GA (01905 772084).

THE MILL House, in Barton St David, Somerset, is mirrored in the calm of the mill pond of the river Brue. Grade II listed, the former water mill is a typical Georgian country house, but has a stream running under the eastern part of the property, where the old mill workings remain. Another mill stone is now set into the courtyard, while there's a small quay fronting the river and mill pond. There are three bedroom/bathroom suites, a fourth bedroom and an integral two-bedroom flat. There are four reception rooms, including a billiards room, a butler's pantry, double garage and workshop. As the house is still being refurbished, there is a choice of kitchens and bathrooms. Offers around £400,000 to Palmer Snell (01963 351373).

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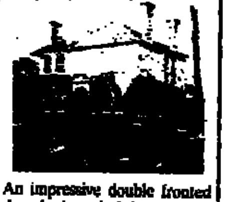
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THE INDEPENDENT

6 March 1999

WEEKEND REVIEW

COMMENT • ARTS & BOOKS • COUNTRY & GARDEN • TRAVEL

MY WEEK, BY MONICA'S PUBLISHER

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BIG COUNTRY: GARDENING IN AMERICA

ANNA PAVORD, PAGE 18

TRUNK CALLS: THE DELIGHTS OF SRI LANKA

TRAVEL, PAGE 19

Question: Which of the following countries exists?
a) Ambrosia
b) Ruritania
c) Ruthenia
Answer: None of the above

Question: Which of the following people is real?
a) Billy Liar
b) Tintin
c) Professor Ivan Turyanitsa, Prime Minister of the would-be nation state of Ruthenia (currently known as Transcarpathian Ukraine)
Answer: You guessed it

Question: Is he a chicken short of a Kiev?
Answer: Not necessarily

Long live Ruthenia!

BY TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

Whence they came, no one can tell. Nobody knows exactly who, how many or where they are. They live in six states and in none. They are loyal to each of these states, and to none of them. Their language is written in five different versions: in the Cyrillic, but also in the Latin alphabet. Some regard themselves as Ukrainians, others as Slovaks, others again as Poles. Or Romanians. Or Hungarians. Or Yugoslavs. But many insist they are "Rusyns", or "Carpatho-Rusyns", or *rusnatsi*. Or, they throw up their hands and give the ancient answer of the peasant from Europe's Slavic borderlands: "We're just from here."

Yet now they have a provisional government that wants to form a new nation-state. A state called Ruthenia.

And here I am, talking to the Prime Minister. We are sitting in the office he occupies as a pharmacologist at a large hospital in Uzhorod, the capital of what Ukrainians call Transcarpathian Ukraine but he insists is Sub-Carpathian Rus'. Professor Ivan Turyanitsa is a stout, cheerful, energetic man, with a shock of black hair, bright eyes and the gift of the gab. He is dressed in what I find to be the current style among the Ruthenians: synthetic sports jacket above, pin-striped trousers below. He has just introduced me to the Foreign Minister, who has come specially from Slovakia, and the Justice Minister, who is a surgeon in the same hospital. "But," he hastens to add, "only two of the Cabinet work here."

While the Justice Minister – still wearing his medical white coat – makes me a cup of tea in the corner, the Prime Minister expounds. In the December 1991 referendum on Ukrainian independence, he says, 78 per cent of the people in this region voted for greater autonomy from the rest of Ukraine, on the far side of the high Carpathian mountains. But what he calls the "Ukrainian national fascist regime" ignored this popular wish. So in May 1993 he and his colleagues formed the Provisional Government of Sub-Carpathian Rus' – or in English, Ruthenia.

How did the Ukrainian authorities react?

"Normalnie!" he replies. (As befits these trans-frontier folk, we are speaking a mixture of Slovak and Polish.) "In the normal way. They arranged a car crash for me." Later, he takes me outside to show me the damaged car. At present, he says, he and his colleagues are tolerated, but given no access to the media.

They want their own state, in the boundaries of the present Transcarpathian oblast of Ukraine, but with close ties to fellow Ruthenians in Slovakia and Poland. As responsible politicians, they will leave defence and what they call "global" foreign policy to the Kiev government. Everything else – including "local and European" foreign policy, education, health and so on – would be their domain. They would have their own currency, "though it could be called the same". Professor Turyanitsa hands me a lapel badge showing their national symbol: yellow and gold stripes, with a red bear, prancing. Rather handsome.

Do they have a national anthem? Yes, of course. Could I see the text? Well, er, um, they don't seem to have one to hand. "But," says the Foreign Minister helpfully, "we could sing it for you!" Yes, please. Unfortunately, they get bashful and, instead of singing, they dig around until they do find the words, written by Aleksander Dukhnovych, a 19th-century priest regarded as the father of the nation. "Sub-Carpathian Rusyns," the anthem begins. "Arise from your deep slumber.'

It's tempting to dismiss this all as a joke. Ruthenia even sounds like something out of a Tintin book: perhaps a neighbour to Ruritania. And the provisional government is certainly good for a laugh. Yet the Ruthenian question takes you to the heart of one of the most important problems of international politics in our time. For in the decade since the end of the Cold War, in the new freedom, these suppressed or sometimes only half-formed nationalities have re-emerged and formulated political aspirations all over Europe.

To understand the Ruthenians' case, you need first to swallow a little potted history. The Ruthenians are a part of the family of east Slavic peoples, like the Russians, Belarussians and Ukrainians, all of whom were at one time or another described as part of Rus'. One scholar wanted to call them "Rus'ians" as opposed to "Russians", but you can see why the fine distinction did not catch on. Everything about their origins, culture, language and politics is disputed.

For most of their modern history the majority lived in the Austro-Hungarian empire. They were mainly farmers or woodcutters in the heavily forested Carpathian foothills. (You still see peasant woodcutters at work in mountain villages that look like pictures by Chagall). It was the Habsburgs who christened them Ruthenen: the English word derives from the German. When the empire was broken up after the First World War, they found themselves scattered between Poland, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia and what would shortly become the Soviet Union, but the greatest concentration was in the new state of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia, the most democratic and liberal of those successor states, gave them considerable autonomy, in a province it called Sub-Carpathian Rus'. The book in which they found the words of the national anthem was actually published in pre-war Czechoslovakia. In those golden days of freedom, there was a great debate between Ukrainophiles, who argued that the Ruthenians were really Ukrainians; Russophiles, who thought they were closer to Russians; and Rusynophiles, who said they were altogether different. Today, the debate has revived as freedom has returned. In Slovakia, I visit two rival organisations: the Union of Rusyno-Ukrainians, who insist that they are just a kind of Ukrainian, and Ruthenian Renaissance, whose spokeswoman tells me it's impossible to be both Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

The autonomy of Sub-Carpathian Rus' reached a perilous height after Britain and France agreed to the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia at Munich in 1938. For six months it was a separate unit in a rump federal Czechoslovakia. The official English name for this unit was Ruthenia. Then, as the Nazis marched into Prague, Ruthenia was gobbled up by Hungary. But that didn't last long either. At the end of the Second World War, Stalin seized it for the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union collapsed, it became part of Ukraine.

Through all this, the Ruthenians went on chopping their wood. Professor Turyanitsa tells me the classic East European joke about the old man who says he was born in Austro-Hungary, went to school in Czechoslovakia, married in Hungary, worked most of his life in the Soviet Union, and now lives in Ukraine. "Travelled a lot, then?" asks his interviewer. "No, I never moved from Mukachevo."

One of the big questions that little Ruthenia prompts is whether the ethnically chequered successor states of the former Soviet Union might yet go the bloody way of former Yugoslavia. Are the Ruthenian rumblings an exception, inspired by the relatively recent experience of autonomy in pre-war Czechoslovakia? Or are other suppressed nationalities even now forming provisional governments in remote hospital offices?

Perhaps 800,000 to one million Ruthenians live in Ukraine. But there are another 100,000 or so in Slovakia, some 60,000 in Poland (where they are called "Lemkos") and smaller numbers in Romania, Hungary and the Vojvodina province of rump Yugoslavia. (They also have one vital asset for any would-be nation: a large community in the United States.) So they live across half a dozen frontiers. One dramatic way in which they describe themselves is "the Kurds of Central Europe".

Moreover, these are not just any old frontiers. Samuel Huntington argues in his influential book, *The Clash of Civilisations*, that the great dividing line in Europe, after the end of the Iron Curtain, will be that between Western (Catholic or Protestant) and Eastern (Orthodox) Christianity. Here, according to Huntington, is the new Eastern boundary of Europe and of "Western civilisation", no less. The Ruthenians, true to form, cut right across it. They worship in both the Eastern Orthodox and the Uniate (or Greek Catholic) church, which uses the Eastern rite but acknowledges the authority of the Western Pope. If you drive through the Ruthenian mountain villages of eastern Slovakia, you often see two churches side by side: an old wooden-built one, which is Uniate, and a new Orthodox one. The original wooden churches were illegally given to the Orthodox by the communists after 1945, then returned to the Uniates after the end of communism, whereupon the Orthodox congregation stormed off and built their own next door.

More immediately, the Ruthenians will soon straddle the new Eastern frontier of Nato. That will be true when Poland joins Nato this April, and even more so if a new, rapidly reforming Slovakia

Continued on page 2

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NINE PAGES OF TRAVEL

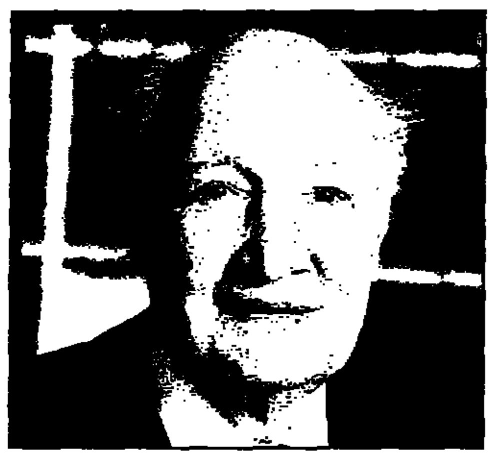
TOMORROW IN

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

CULTURE

The day I had a heart attack, by Disney boss Michael Eisner

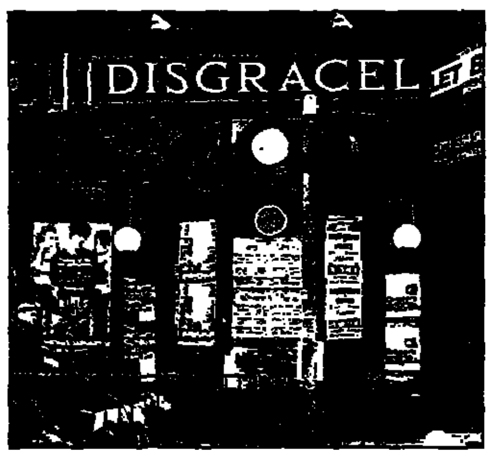
COMMENT



If only Lord Denning had died at 70, by AN Wilson

What I meant to say about accents, by Beryl Bainbridge

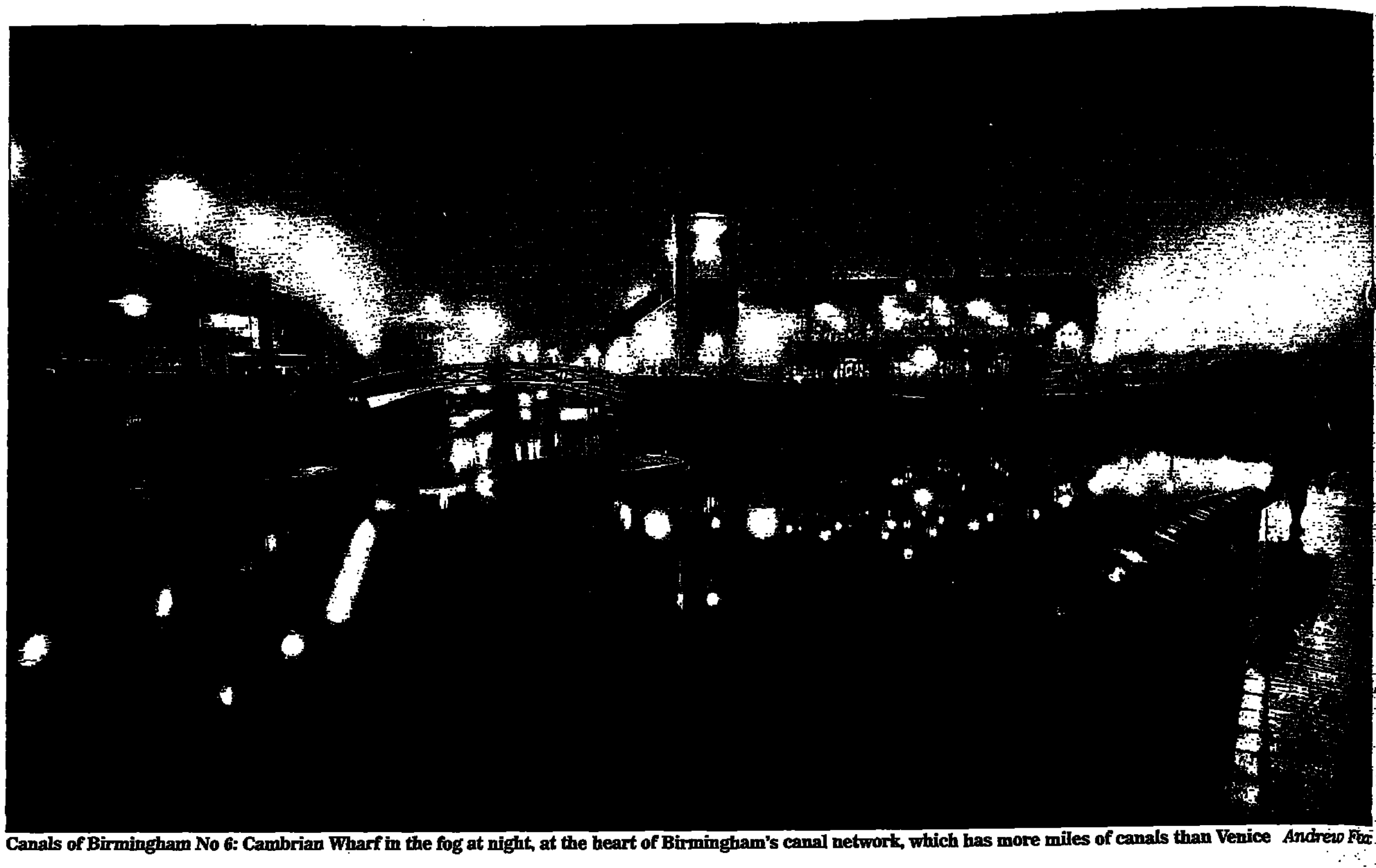
REVIEW



Islington: Ronan Bennett investigates Britain's trendiest borough

PLUS

Alain de Botton on why the Book of Job has lessons even for atheists



Canals of Birmingham No 6: Cambrian Wharf in the fog at night, at the heart of Birmingham's canal network, which has more miles of canals than Venice *Andrew Fox*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Banana battle

Sir: The Government must stand firm in the "Banana war". President Clinton may be in the pay of Chiquita Banana but it would be humiliating in the extreme if this company also called the tune in Europe.

I declare an interest. My family are banana growers in the Caribbean and I know that most of them live on the poverty line. The solution is for Chiquita bananas to pay Central American workers a living wage rather than using their hunger as part of the game of monopoly capitalism. To drag in Scottish cashmere workers is disgusting.

EVAN JONES
London SW15

Sir: You report that the United States has imposed its 100 per cent tariff on EU luxury goods "rather than wait for a World Trade Organisation ruling" ("British fury at US over 'banana war' ", 5 March). This is not strictly correct. A ruling on the issue was handed down by a WTO panel in 1997, which was broadly in favour of the US, and this was confirmed on appeal by the WTO appellate body.

The present impasse has been reached because the WTO dispute resolution procedure does not provide effectively for enforcement of judgments, a defect which needs to be addressed in the next round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Before further damage is inflicted on the WTO by the parties to this dispute, both the US and the EU member states should reflect that the GATT system came into being after the Second World War as part of a package to ensure that such conflicts would never occur again. The GATT has been part of the system which has ensured global peace for the last half century. If the future of the WTO is threatened by this dispute, then GATT and all it stands for is also at risk.

Professor GAVIN McFARLANE
Department of Law
London Guildhall University

America hits back

Sir: Ken Livingstone ("The Third Way will drive Europe into a slump", 3 March) claims that nearly a third of the population in the US has no guaranteed access to health care. In fact in 1997 the proportion, according to the US Census Bureau, was 16.1 per cent. Of these, over 43 per cent were not citizens of the United States.

Mr Livingstone claims that levels of homelessness and drug addiction "dwarf anything we see even in the most deprived pockets of Europe". A recent study by the National Law Center on homelessness and poverty found in the US "700,000 people homeless on any given night, and up to 2 million people who experience homelessness during one year". The European document "Housing Policy in the EU Member States" quotes an estimate that, in 1993, there was a minimum of 2.5 million homeless households in Europe

Mr Livingston claims that "much of the so-called American economic revival has simply been the creation of low-wage, low-skill and casual employment". In fact, the rate of part-time employment in the US has stayed almost constant since 1986; according to the OECD.

If Europeans interested in dealing with their very serious economic problems had a better grasp of the facts of the US economy, rather than relying on stereotypes, myths and prejudices, then they might learn some valuable lessons. I am not holding my breath.

Dr JOSEPH EDWARD NEMEC
New York

Jungle massacre

Sir: Jan Morris (Comment, 4 March) is right to praise the spirit of adventure which leads travellers to troublespots like Uganda: our pampered society increasingly lacks the human qualities of risk and discovery.

But we must also recognise that the killings in Uganda represent a new kind of danger. In Egypt, Tanzania, Kenya, Yemen, Nigeria, Chechnya, Kashmir, Angola, Cambodia – "safe" destinations as well as conflict zones – Westerners have been targeted by ruthless political groups whose purpose is to reach the world's media. We are seen by local communities as representatives of a global system which they can access through us.

This is very different from getting caught up in a robbery or riot. You can't judge it just by watching your back out there. What is needed is a sophisticated and independent information service, perhaps on a subscription or Internet basis, which could be free from the commercial and political considerations which necessarily surround governments and tour companies.

JONATHAN LORIE
Editor
"Traveller" magazine
London SW3

Sir: Your leading article on travel (3 March) sounds to me as if *The Independent* has joined the "nanny state". I am not shedding tears over the people killed in Uganda. If they want to spend large sums of money on invading the remaining wild places of this earth they must be prepared for the unpleasant consequences. Why the Foreign Office should be blamed, I have no idea.

DULCIE D POWELL
Woodbridge, Suffolk

Sir: I did not catch any reference on BBC News or ITN to the *other* four deaths in the Ugandan massacre, nor did the Prime Minister mention them in the House of Commons, at least in the broadcast clip.

However, our trustworthy *Independent* did at least mention on the front page (3 March), if well down the story, that "four Ugandans – a game warden and three of his rangers – were killed as they tried to protect the tourists".

Although this and your later reports have not ignored these Ugandan victims, I fear that even *Independent* readers are still left with an impression that these are second-class deaths, of little more than anonymous, undifferentiated Africans. This wouldn't be an example of unwitting institutional racism, would it ?

CHARLES MANTON
Bristol

Sir: When you headline the account of the Hutu massacre in Uganda with a reference to "the law of the jungle" (4 March), you make the common mistake of reversing the proper meaning of the term. It means not so much the absence of order imposed from above as the presence of order evolved from below.

It was authoritatively expounded a century ago by Rudyard Kipling in his two *Jungle Books*. The Mowgli stories repeatedly quote it to describe the practical rules which must be observed by every community – in this case the imaginary community of animals in the Seeonee Hills of central India – if its members are to coexist without external authority.

In this sense, the law of the jungle – based on the slogan, "We be one blood, thou and I" – represents the same concept as that of universal human rights, and it should not be applied to the violation of such rights.

MARY LEWIS
Freedom Press
London E1

Care or greed?

Sir: The debate rumbles on about the cost of providing care for the elderly in residential homes ("Ministers may reject free care for elderly", 2 March; letters, 4 March).

No one can live in two homes at once, so it is natural to sell the unoccupied property. The sense of injustice felt by the children is only that the money is going towards the cost of the parent's care and not into their own pockets. Having a property to sell gives the aged parent both choice and quality of care in their remaining years which they otherwise might not have. The money is theirs to spend as they choose.

For those children who want the money for themselves, the answer is clear. You look after the parent, and look at the house sale proceeds as a just reward. A job which the majority of caring children already do for love and for free.

The whole debate is not about fairness and care, but about money and greed.

P NORTON
Ampthill, Bedfordshire

Ratings game

Sir: Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, asserts (Podium, 3 March) that the demise of ITV's *News at Ten* demonstrates that "ITV and the BBC are not in the same game .... ITV shoves inconvenient genres out of the way". By contrast he claims that the BBC continues virtuously to schedule its current affairs in peak time.

How does he reconcile this with the move of *Panorama* from 9.30 to 10pm, *Omnibus* from 10 to 10.40 and *Question Time* from 10 to 11?

BBC1 is playing exactly the same game as ITV, scheduling "inconvenient genres" out of the way where they will do least damage to ratings and share. Given the unique way the BBC is funded, is there not an onus on BBC Broadcast to schedule BBC 1 current affairs strands at a time convenient for people to watch them?

PETER MENNEER
Claygate, Surrey
The writer was head of BBC Broadcasting Research, 1979-92

Missing nurses

Sir: Your report ("Nurses respond to appeal", 3 March) that 41,398 nurses have responded to the Government's campaign to alleviate the recruitment crisis is incorrect.

In fact, the statement refers to callers, and only 3,300 were qualified nurses inquiring as to the possibility of returning to the NHS. While the Government appears to count so exactly, and spin so efficiently, the number of callers to a helpline, astonishingly it does not even collect its own data on nursing vacancies in the NHS.

Instead it has been forced to cobble together outside information to provide an estimate (almost certainly an underestimate) of 9,000 nursing vacancies. This is three times more than the number of nurses calling to inquire about training, and so there is no cause for complacency.

Dr EVAN HARRIS MP
(Oxford West and Abingdon, Lib Dem)
House of Commons,
London SW1
The writer is Liberal Democrat NHS spokesman

IN BRIEF

Sir: Long before television, Flora Klickman (editor of *The Girls Own Paper* 1908-1931) warned that we were becoming a "picture minded civilisation". Widespread illiteracy among national servicemen in the late 1940s and 1950s necessitated emergency education programmes by the War Office. "Dumbing down" is much observed ("Dumb Britannia", 2 March). But anyone hearing a hut full of soldiers singing such mid-century hits as "Goodnight Irene" would, I think, turn to the Spice Girls with relief.

DAVID LAZELL
Loughborough, Leicestershire

Sir: What Robbie Fowler said was abusive not towards Graeme Le Saux, but towards gay people such as myself (Review, 4 March). For this he should have been reprimanded. Le Saux colluded in the homophobia by taking it as an insult. I would not be insulted by the "accusation" that I was heterosexual!

GEOFFREY HARDY
Shrewsbury

Sir: Rather than looking to make a quick profit by selling the Millennium Dome after next year (report, 5 March), the nation would be better served by using it as an all-year, all-weather National Institute of Sport.

JAMES MASON
London NW1

Long live Ruthenia!

Continued from page 1

enters the Western alliance in a few years' time. Then you will have significant numbers of Ruthenians on both sides of the West's front line. The Foreign Minister tells me confidentially that his government is "delighted to see Nato coming closer to us".

The Ruthenian story is, in every respect, a quintessentially East European one, and those of us with the perverse taste for such things may love it for its own sake. But it's not just an East European question. In Western Europe, too, we have nationalities, in varying degrees of formation, striving for anything from autonomy to statehood. Think of Scotland and Wales in Britain, for example, or of Catalonia and the Basque country in Spain. And it's not just Europe. When I ask the Prime Minister if his government has achieved international recognition, he proudly declares: "Yes indeed, we have been accepted into UNPROFOR."

"UNPROFOR? But that was the military force in Bosnia!"

"Sorry, I mean UNPRO."

Finally, we establish that it's UNPO, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation. On my return, I visit UNPO's website and find a list of more than 50 of these, starting with Abkhazia, Aboriginals in Australia and Alcheh/Sumatra, then on to East Timor, Kurdistan, Nagaland and Tibet. And, in the middle, Kosova – the Albanian spelling of Kosovo.

All over the world there are these peoples who would be states. Or at least, recognised political units. This is a problem in dictatorships, when established identities are brutally suppressed, as in Tibet or East Timor. It's also a problem in liberal democracies, when people wish to be governed by those they feel speak the same language or are of the same kind. Perhaps most of all, it's a problem at the fragile half-way stage between dictatorship and democracy. So often the road that begins with an UNPO ends in the need for an UNPROFOR.

Ruthenian orthodox church

J Strachan/Robert Harding

The Ruthenians are still far from being Kurds or Kosovars. For now, their "representatives" want some basic minority rights, such as education in their own language. Improvements in Slovakia will increase the grievances in Ukraine. They demand that Ruthenian nationality should be an option in the Ukrainian census that is scheduled for 2001, and that Ukrainian state forestry companies should stop the mechanised stripping of trees from their beloved hills. Those forests are their national heritage. They also hope to prevent the Transcarpathian oblast being incorporated into a new, enlarged province that would be ruled from Lvov, in a planned reform of public administration for which, they tell me, the International Monetary Fund has been pressing. And finally, they look for more co-operation across the frontiers, in what is already the Carpathian Euroregion.

That's a long way short of statehood. But Professor Turyanitsa is a gifted demagogue. If the circumstances were right, and he was given access to the media, I could see him – or someone like him – persuading an audience of Ruthenian hill farmers, woodcutters and impoverished town-dwellers that they are heirs to a great tradition; that they were more prosperous and free as part of Czechoslovakia before the war; that the Ukrainian "national chauvinists" – a phrase he repeats often and with relish – are to blame for all of their troubles: in short, that they would be much better off governing themselves.

As we speak, rainwater is pouring down from the Carpathians and flooding the lowlands on the border with Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. "You see," he exclaims, "the very waters are pushing us to the West."

Absurd as it may sound, I have a strange hunch that one day we will again see the name "Ruthenia" on the map, if not as a sovereign state, then at least as some sort of autonomous province. When that day comes, remember: you read it here first.

هكذا من الأصل

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

We are not dumbing down, but broadening our cultural life

BRITAIN'S CULTURAL life is being dumbed down, no doubt about it. Hardly anybody learns Latin or classical Greek. Reciting poetry from memory is a dying skill. *News at Ten* has gone. And the newspapers! Apart from *The Independent* and the *Financial Times* it is all the Spice Girl's baby and Prince Philip and his showgirls.

But whether this vulgarisation is a bad or a good thing is a much more complicated question. The authors in our series Dumb Britannia, which concludes today, have generally been surprisingly optimistic. As Thomas Sutcliffe wrote of television, "all golden ages are tricks of the light". More children watch cheap cartoons at all sorts of unlikely times of day, but the gold standard of *Blue Peter* is still there. The consumer has a choice, which includes more high-minded, engaging and educational programmes than ever.

The purists bemoan the triviality of Classic FM, the schmaltz of *Shakespeare in Love* and the eclecticism of the post-modern sensibility that regards football and Canaletto as being of equal value. Yet in each case the classical canon is being made more accessible, brought within reach of a wider audience, most of whom may skim the surface while some may be drawn in deeper.

The fragmentation of knowledge is also its democratisation. This week's hit in the cinema is a low-budget, alternative Danish film, *Festen*. There is more High Art in the galleries than ever before, and the theatres are packed – when they deserve to be.

It may be that there is less and less of a consensus about what constitutes high culture. There has not been for a long time a body of knowledge that it is assumed all civilised people in this country will know. But when there was a central canon, it was based on a classical education that was the preserve of the élite private schools. It was then widened out to the grammar schools before being dissolved almost entirely by the tyranny of "relevance", in which schools tried to base their teaching on what children already knew.

But it is an exaggeration to say that we now exist in a mix-and-match universe in which individuals are left without a guide to create their own sense of value. It is a beguiling vision, of a world in which there is far more information available than ever before, but no central avenue through it. That is the assumption behind much of the debate about the BBC: that one of its purposes is to lead the listener and viewer along the high and stony road of virtue and away from the low marsh of our baser natures – in which we would wallow in porn on the Internet and cable television all day if left to our own devices.

It is a false assumption, because the democratisation of knowledge is not about being left to our own devices, but about being more able to choose our guides.

Young people not only know different things, they know things differently, as John Sutherland pointed out in his essay with which our series opened. When he was a child a high value was placed on a trained memory, the ability to recall the key texts and the key names and dates of the canon. Children now place a much higher value on knowing where to find information and knowing what to do with it when they have found it.

Nor is it the case that the British education system stayed in the relativist morass into which it briefly slipped. The National Curriculum has been a huge project in reconstructing a central core of common knowledge. In her essay, our education editor detected a strong "whiff of utilitarianism" in this modernised version of the canon; but, to the extent that this means equipping children with the basic tools to access knowledge effectively, it is entirely right. And when she compared the O-level English syllabus from 1976 with the GCSE for 2000, she found Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* on both. The difference now being that culture is compulsory and universal, rather than being at the whim of individual teachers or for the "academic" minority.

In most cases, what is happening is not so much a dumbing down as a broadening out. But there is one area where the drive towards the lowest common denominator should genuinely be worrying, and that is in journalism. The ending of *News at Ten* and the convergence of tabloid and broadsheet newspapers on the middle ground of celebrity soap opera is a real threat, not to our cultural life but to our democratic citizenship. It is not yet clear that the Internet will be a viable alternative source of serious in-depth reporting for those who seek it. *The Independent* has an interest to declare and, we hope, our own furrow to plough. But we believe that, if you are alarmed by Dumb Britannia, then you are reading the right newspaper.

The time has come for a Supreme Court

THIS WEEK saw the passing of two of this century's great activist judges: Lord Denning at the age of 100 yesterday, and Harry Blackmun, the author of the Roe *vs* Wade decision which legalised abortion in the United States, at the age of 90 on Thursday.

Tom Denning was an outstanding figure in British law, fired by his belief that the common law was the essential defence of the common man against the abuse of power. Sometimes he went too far, inventing the law in the shape of his own prejudices – the young Anthony Blair, barrister, used to rail in the *New Statesman* against his anti-trade-union bias. And his refusal to consider the possibility that the police might tell lies perpetuated the miscarriage of justice suffered by the Birmingham Six.

But Denning's use of plain English was an important democratic advance. Next month's little-heralded "Wolfe Revolution", in which the English legal system drops Latin obfuscation in favour of plain words, pays him the highest compliment. And his contribution to the development of judicial review, which allows courts to restrain the use of state power, ensures his place in history.

His death, and that of Justice Blackmun, offer the chance to consider the place of "creative" judges in modern democracies. In their lives, they both helped to explode the myth that judgments, especially in the higher courts, are mere neutral, non-political interpretations of laws laid down by legislatures. That separation cannot be maintained, as the imminent second verdict in the case of General Pinochet so emphatically confirms.

That means that the rest of the judicial myth has to be ditched too: the fiction that judges are detached intellects in a social and cultural void, immune from bias and selected on merit by their peers. Legal judgments are an intensely political business – judges should not contradict the intentions of elected lawmakers, of course, but when abstract law comes up against concrete and hard cases, the choices that judges make are bound to be political. Especially when they are interpreting possibly conflicting laws laid down by statute and by the European Convention on Human Rights.

This means it is right to care who our judges are and how they are appointed. And it is also right to find the present British system of law lords sitting in the second chamber of the legislature seriously wanting. We need our own Supreme Court, and quickly. Its members – who may even include women – should not be appointed by the Government. It would be going too far to suggest that they should be directly elected; the kind of skills needed to run for election are inimical to the qualities of reflection needed in a judge.

They should be appointed for life – or at least until retirement – to give them independence. But they should be appointed in open competition by an independent body, and their appointment should be confirmed in public hearings by a parliamentary committee. The US system of hearings to confirm the appointments of Supreme Court judges can turn into a media circus, as in the case of Robert Bork, who was rejected. But it was a circus which encouraged a wide public debate about the issue of judicial bias.

Lord Denning's greatest service was to be a "character"; until we know as much about the quirks and foibles of the 12 law lords, and until we know that those quirks and foibles are a fair reflection of those of the nation, we shall remain at the mercy of hidden prejudices. An open and balanced Supreme Court should be Lord Denning's legacy.

If you preach liberty, don't ignore atrocities in Freetown

FERGAL KEANE

'The militia cut a guy's head off and rode around town with it on a spike'

MENTION SANDLINE at Paddy's Bar at the end of another day of war, and they will most likely laugh in your face. Well, Roy certainly will.

He is still trying to get the picture of the severed head of a three-year-old boy out of his mind. As Roy tells it, after a few beers of course, the rebels caught the kid and dangled him upside down. Then one of them took his machete and started swiping at the child. He was a good hacker. Soon enough he separated the head from the body. Roy is a member of the local civil defence and he carries a gun. But he shot too late to save the child. He did manage to kill two of the rebels, and he wounded a third, but the kid was dead.

And now Roy tells his story to people like me at the end of the day in Paddy's Bar. The bar is full of stories and rumours and gossip. Stories about the day's fighting. "Is it true Ecomog have taken Waterloo?" or "Did you hear the militia cut a guy's head off and rode around town with it on a spike?" or "Did you hear that shooting last night? How close was it? Who was firing?" The ordinary rumours of an extraordinary war.

I should point out that Paddy himself doesn't gossip. After 31 years in Freetown the 67-year-old Brit is a good listener, but, like all the best bartenders, he knows how to keep a secret. Thin and tall, with a nut-brown tan and a rogue's smile, Paddy has lived through dictators, coups and civil wars. In better times he owned a restaurant down on the beach. The diplomatic set used to go there. There were fine parties that lasted late into the night.

He remembers the night the Italian ambassador gave a dinner for his staff. It was Paddy's bad luck that the prostitutes staged a pitched battle on the beach that night. The immigrant girls from Liberia fought a turf battle with the girls from Freetown. As Paddy remembers, there was a lot of punching and kicking. The Ambassador's secretary tried to calm them down but was forced to retreat.

"The strange thing, though, was that they didn't tear each other's clothes," remembers Paddy. "They all only had one decent dress each and it was like a point of decency not to destroy each other's working clothes."

When the army coup forced him out of his beach-side place, Paddy moved across the estuary to his current premises – a large open-air bar with a thatched roof. Once settled, he tried to bar the prostitutes. The business down at the beach had left him shaken. But the girls formed a union and picketed the new bar.

There were negotiations. Paddy's streetwise business partner, Alec, persuaded the girls to lift the picket. A set number would be allowed back in on condition that there was no fighting and that customers were not tormented. And they have pretty much kept their word. There is none of the fevered hustling that you find in bars in East and Central Africa. If you don't want to do business you will be left alone.

Paddy's regular crowd starts to roll in around four o'clock. Curfew is at six, so if you want to medicate away the tension and fear of a Freetown day, then you get to Paddy's in time for several beers before the drive home. And you make damn sure not to stay too late. The Nigerian soldiers and local militia who man the checkpoint get jittery after curfew.

The other morning we had to drive in the dark before the end of curfew. It was a 5am start that took us along the empty coast road with its ghostly ocean and abandoned hotels. I wish to record that our driver, a gentleman by the name of Kabbah, was among the most witless whom I have ever encountered.

On the hill near the British High Commission we came up to a Nigerian post where the sentry jumped out into the middle of the road with his gun raised. Our driver decided to reverse, stealing backwards as the sentry screamed abuse and then cocked his weapon and got ready to shoot. I leaned forward and thumped the driver on the back. Yes, thumped.

An act of violence. I admit it. But the man needed to be shocked out of his mad retreat. The thump did the trick and he stopped the car. After many apologies from us, the sentry waved us through.

It is hard to blame the Nigerians for being so jumpy. When the rebels swept into Freetown in early January, many of them wore Ecomog uniforms. Nigerian sentries coming out to greet them were shot down.

To travel through Freetown these days and to listen to the stories of its survivors is to enter a different universe to that occupied by Michael Howard and his Sandline-obsessed colleagues. While the British Opposition was still gnawing at Robin Cook's trouser leg, somewhere between 4,000 and 6,000 people were being butchered in Freetown. That is a lot of people to be killed in a few weeks, even by the lamentable standards of our times.

Let us consider the United Nation's estimates for a moment: 150,000 people displaced; 1,000 children who have simply disappeared, many of them forced to become soldiers in the rebel army; hundreds of women and young girls who have been raped; scores of people who have been burned alive in their homes; hundreds of people who have had their hands or legs chopped off by the rebels. Place in your mind for a moment the dreadful image of the psychiatric patients in Kissey (again, according to the UN's report) who were rounded up and executed for their madness, or that of the 10 policemen hacked to death beside the beautiful giant cotton tree that stands in the centre of the city.

And while all of this was going on, did we hear loud voices of protest from the Opposition? Did we hear demands for action to protect these former colonial subjects? Did we hear them call for the defence of Sierra Leone's government (a very imperfect, but democratically elected government)? Not a bit of it. We had Sandline and Sandline and more Sandline.

Robin Cook was right to announce extra aid to Sierra Leone this week and right to insist that the mayhem on the ground was the dominant issue, not Sandline. It is a message that still escapes the Labour-dominated Foreign Affairs select committee and the Tory opposition. Of course, it is right to be concerned about Sandline. The whole murky affair does raise important issues of truth and accountability. But this week's debate had the unpleasant whiff of point-scoring at a time when people were dying by the thousand in Sierra Leone. And when people in Paddy's Bar asked me why so few people in Britain were interested in what was happening in their country right now, I was at a loss to give them an answer beyond saying that Freetown and London naturally operated to different agendas. That's democracy, I told them. It is about cut and thrust. Adversarial politics. Domestic politics. Small politics. But I never got too far in those conversations before they told me that all that stuff was a million miles removed from the reality of their daily lives.

It is possible to take the view that we should be concerned only with Sandline, and that all that really matters is our own domestic political agenda. Those, like Alan Clark, who make this argument are wrong, I believe, but they are at least being honest with us. It is possible to have a clear intellectual disagreement with them. What is much harder to take is the sight of those who have long preached the merits of liberty, averting their gaze when that precious gift is being abused every day on the streets of Freetown.

The writer is a BBC special correspondent

More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy – the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations.

None of this need happen if he makes a Will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a Will. It explains:

● why everyone needs to make a Will

● how to go about it

● and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don'y leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Monica Lewinsky's interview • Ugandan massacre • Dusty Springfield • Israel and Lebanon • Footballers and homophobia

UGANDAN MASSACRE

World opinion on the massacre of western tourists by Hutu rebels in the Bwindi national park

THE NATION
Kenya

THE KILLINGS will, no doubt, add significantly to the amount of negative publicity the East African region has had to endure for some time now. Despite an infrastructure that does not leave particularly happy memories in the minds of visitors, eastern Africa's natural resources and beauty continue to lure many to this part of the world. It was indeed the captivating sight of the rare mountain gorillas that lured the visitors to Uganda. We hope that this sad and tragic end to what should have been a happy adventure will be seen in its right perspective – as the work of people who have no moral or political legitimacy for the war they are involved in.

◆

USA TODAY

THE UNITED States cannot be the world's police force. But in Africa, the US needs to do more. It provides *minimal financial* support for peacekeeping efforts. Why so little? And instead of dithering around as it did as hundreds of thousands were slaughtered in Rwanda in 1994, why not be publicly prepared, when genocide occurs, to call it that and drive the appropriate forces to intervene? Odds are none of that would have saved the lives lost this week in Uganda. On the other hand, a feeble policy of disengagement hasn't helped any, either.

◆

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
Australia

THE DEATHS in Uganda underline Central Africa's slide into chaos. Government exists in name only through the region. Sorting out this mess will take more resolve than the international community has shown. If something as horrific as the Rwandan genocide was left unchecked for as long as it was, the collapse of Central Africa will be slow to raise eyebrows. Meanwhile Uganda has just been added to those other destinations (such as Yemen) which tourists should approach with great caution.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
US

THIS IS bitter proof of how easily bystanders can be swept up in one of Africa's nastiest conflicts. Among those who escaped was a Bay Area resident, Linda Adams. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni vowed to capture or kill the rebels. He admitted his government failed to warn visitors that Hutu rebels were operating in Uganda and had issued threats against foreigners. We admire Adams' ingenuity in escaping, and we extend our condolences to the victims of the Hutu's barbarism.

◆

KHALEEJ TIMES
UAE

THIS IS only the latest instance of foreigners falling victim to local political conflicts. While the exact motivation has yet to be ascertained, it can be said with certainty that the killings were staged with the express aim of scaring off visitors from a country desperately seeking to revive its tourist industry. The Ugandan killings fit into this trend of rebels treating foreigners as fair game in their struggle against political enemies. The challenge for these countries is how to deal with the perpetrators of the crimes without resorting to measures that might prove counter-productive to relations with, ironically, the same Western nations whose citizens are the most vulnerable targets.

◆

FLORIDA TIMES
US

THIS IS a solemn reminder that it is dangerous for anyone, certainly Americans, to venture into a war zone. That entire region is engulfed in a struggle. On one side, a corrupt dictator and his allies, including a band of genocidal killers. On the other pro-democracy rebels and democratic governments in Rwanda and Uganda. Yet, somehow, the US maintains its neutrality. This is a fight between right and wrong, good and evil. While the United States should not commit troops, of course, financial aid is long overdue.

We all share her degradation

MONICA LEWINSKY'S INTERVIEW

American verdicts on Monica Lewinsky's interview with Barbara Walters on ABC television in the United States

THE DENVER POST

IN THE end it was unclear whether Monica has any sense of the magnitude of the trauma she's endured. Was she there for the traditional prime-time healing process or simply to launch her book tour? And what did we get out of it? The victim, the journalist, the viewing public and the nation shared the degradation. Shame on us for bothering.

◆

THE MACON TELEGRAPH

WE'RE UNCLEAR as to whether ABC paid Ms Lewinsky for her interview. But there is no question that the event is meant by her handlers to kick off a multi-million-dollar marketing campaign here and abroad. No domestic book-signing tour is scheduled for the United States. Certain states, Georgia included, have passed laws inhibiting criminals from benefiting from their misdeeds by requiring them to share any book or movie profits with their victims. While Monica Lewinsky is not a criminal, it somehow just doesn't seem right for her to profit. How does one explain to children in light of the Lewinsky story that the best way to get ahead in life is to work hard and focus on genuine accomplishments?

◆

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

AT A time when media credibility is at an all-time low and people find it hard to distinguish between news and entertainment, ABC has blurred the line even more. The network is using the interview as a money-making tool. That, in itself, is not necessarily a bad thing as long as the network is up front about it. But because the network on one hand tries to stand apart from "infotainment" type shows posing as news, and on the other hand looks for any means possible to rake in cash, the credibility of all legitimate news organizations suffers. The bottom line is that ABC television is out for the money. The news (if there actually is any in this particular interview) is secondary. Viewers may want to keep that in mind when they tune in this evening.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

MONICA LEWINSKY had to play the role of seductress. She is desperate to seduce us into buying her new book. Desperate to seduce us into believing that she is the heroine of the trashy novel forming her corner of the Clinton scandals. Seduce us into accepting her into our homes and hearts for whatever role she decides to play in the future. Yes, there were icky sexual details and sentimental nonsense. There were tears, near the end of the first hour, and late in the second hour to keep wearying viewers hooked. But overall, Lewinsky's charm offensive showed someone having way too much fun.

BOSTON HERALD

AT LONG last, the young woman who was sexually exploited by the most powerful politician on the planet managed to exact her own brand of revenge. "I felt like a piece of trash. I felt dirty and I felt used and I was disappointed," Monica Lewinsky told Walters. In that, Lewinsky joins a long list of women abused by the man who, for reasons most decent people cannot explain, continues in residence in the White House. There is Gennifer Flowers who was used and abandoned. There's Juanita Broaddrick, who details a sexual assault. There's Paula Jones, sexually harassed in a Little Rock hotel. There's Kathleen Willey, groped in the Oval Office. So Lewinsky now feels dirty, used, disappointed. Well, so should anyone who ever thought Bill Clinton worthy of being president of the United States.

◆

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

BRASH, CONFIDENT and often-disturbingly glib, Lewinsky appeared to have been coached by the same people who teach Miss America contestants to answer each and every question with the widest possible smile. Only toward the end, as Walters asked Lewinsky about the effect on her parents and about possible suicidal thoughts, did Lewinsky succumb to the tears that are the hallmark of any Barbara Walters interview. Just as Paula Jones was repackaged for her 15 minutes of fame, Lewinsky got ready for her close-up with a sleek new 'do. While the clearance of the Lewinsky interview by special prosecutor Kenneth Starr might have been an indication that the former intern's story was winding down, events of the past 48 hours suggest that Lewinsky is still a moving target. If only she weren't also a giggling one.

◆

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

AS TELEVISION , this was pure performance art. Walters was a master inquisitor. It didn't matter if many or most viewers had read or heard the answers. People kept on going back to see *Titanic* for the human interplay rather than for the figurative train wreck.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD

Tributes to the pop singer Dusty Springfield, below, who died on Tuesday from breast cancer

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

THERE ARE few people who would deny that Dusty Springfield was the finest female pop singer that Britain has ever produced. In fact, the only person who would have questioned that fact was Dusty Springfield herself. The apparent self-assurance which she brought to her performances in the Sixties on stage – and on the foremost pop music programme of the day, *Ready, Steady, Go!* – was a total façade. All her life she had felt the need to be someone else. Dusty Springfield was always an act. But it was a good one. (*Mick Brown*)

◆

EVENING STANDARD

UNLIKE HER peers and rivals in Britain – singers like Cilla Black, Lulu and Sandie Shaw – Dusty, influenced by the sounds of Phil Spector and Motown when she toured America, chose material that included ballads, soul, gospel, and rhythm and blues – material generally reserved for black singers at the time. In Britain she swiftly attracted a following for her regular appearances on the TV pop show *Ready, Steady, Go!* generating much adolescent interest in her miniskirts and knee-high boots. Dusty Springfield may have died just two weeks before she was due to go to New York to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, but she had long been a member of the pantheon of pop legends. (*Tim Cooper*)

THE MIRROR

IN THE showbiz hall of fame, Dusty Springfield will hold a special place. She was a remarkable singer with a voice that many imitated but none surpassed. The promised years of pleasure after her career was revived have been tragically snatched away. But her voice will live on.

◆

DAILY MAIL

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD was a collision of contradictions. Musically gifted, she was eternally tortured by self-doubt. She died at her home finally knowing that, whatever she thought of her abilities, her country and profession honoured her, and her peers in popular music cherished her, as did every one of us who ever filtered our own emotional frailties through that beautiful yearning voice. As Cliff Richard said: 'Dusty Springfield – the voice of voices." (*Ray Connolly*)

ISRAEL AND LEBANON

The Middle Eastern press considers Israel's retaliative air strikes on the Lebanon

JERUSALEM POST
Israel

AN ISRAELI withdrawal would deprive Damascus of its excuse for occupying its neighbor, a founding member of the UN whose independence it never formally recognized. Once out of Lebanon, Israel will have the tools and legitimacy with which to concoct an ongoing effort to ostracize Syria diplomatically, so long as it pulls the strings of a belligerent Hizbullah.

◆

THE STAR
Lebanon

CONTINUED ILLEGAL, repressive and savage occupation of south Lebanon will inevitably inspire armed resistance, and that will bring casualties. The Israelis and Netanyahu – with only a little over 10 weeks to the elections – would be foolish to believe that domestic opinion favors such action. The Israelis may invade as often as they choose, but every action will make it harder for their government to make inevitable compromises and learn to live in peace with their neighbors.

◆

HA'ARETZ
Israel

HOW CAN it be said, on the one hand, that Israel must not withdraw forces without security and normalisation agreements with Syria, and then, on the other, to waste three years without exchanging a single word with the Syrians?

◆

TESHREEN
Syria

DOES ISRAEL imagine that the Arab peace-loving nations will allow it to profit by its insolent aggression and annexation and dictate terms as aggressors seeking to wrest that which belongs to Palestine, Syria and Lebanon? Real peace means Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

FOOTBALLERS AND HOMOPHOBIA

Comment on attitudes to gays in football after Robbie Fowler's taunting of Graeme Le Saux

DAILY MAIL

WHAT A depressing insight into the so-called beautiful game. In any other walk of life, jeering at a colleague because of his supposed sexual orientation would be as unacceptable as attacking him for race or religion. The FA was quick enough to get rid of Hoddle for expressing a religious opinion. Perhaps now it will be equally robust in rooting out the real nastiness in football – if only for the sake of all the impressionable young fans who may grow up to emulate these "heroes" with feet of clay.

◆

THE GUARDIAN

HERE IS a chance for the FA to demonstrate its disciplinary process – and its determination to root out bigotry if the allegations are proved true. Bigotry is best defeated by open confrontation. As the Football Task Force noted, bigotry is not produced by football but it all too readily feeds off it.

THE SUN

FOOTBALLERS HAVE given and taken insults from the time the game began. The grown-up ones dealt with it, the immature ones fell victim to it. Wind-ups have always been commonplace. Robbie Fowler has to be told to mind his tongue and Graeme Le Saux to control his temper. Somebody should tell them to grow up and get on with the game. (*John Sadler*)

◆

THE MIRROR

IN A Britain where it's increasingly acceptable to be homosexual, football is one of the last bastions of macho heterosexuality. Experts say *one* in 10 British men are gay, which puts the figure in the league at around 300. Would a company really want to advertise its all-action aftershave or girl-pulling hair gel with a gay footballer? We're a long way from dyeing the England boys' white shirts pink. (*Clare Grant*)

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"There is no such thing as serious music on television now. It always has to have a gimmick."
Sir André Previn (pictured)

"It would be great to dress up and look like a sex symbol."
Dame Judi Dench, actor

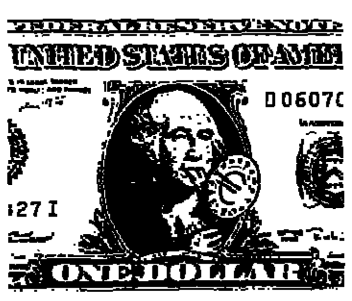
"I have no problem with cheque-book journalism, as long as some of the cheque goes to me."
Jon Snow, newsreader

"Old people have one advantage compared with young ones. They have been young themselves, and young people haven't been old."
Lord Longford

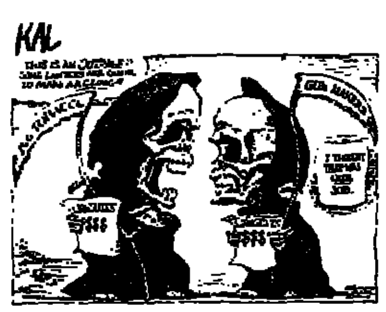
"If Cilla Black spoke as beautifully as Anna Ford, *Blind Date* would lose half its appalling fascination."
John Casey, Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

"Nobody cares if Le Saux is gay or not. It is the fact that he openly admits to reading *The Guardian* that makes him the most reviled man in football."
Piers Morgan, editor of 'The Mirror'

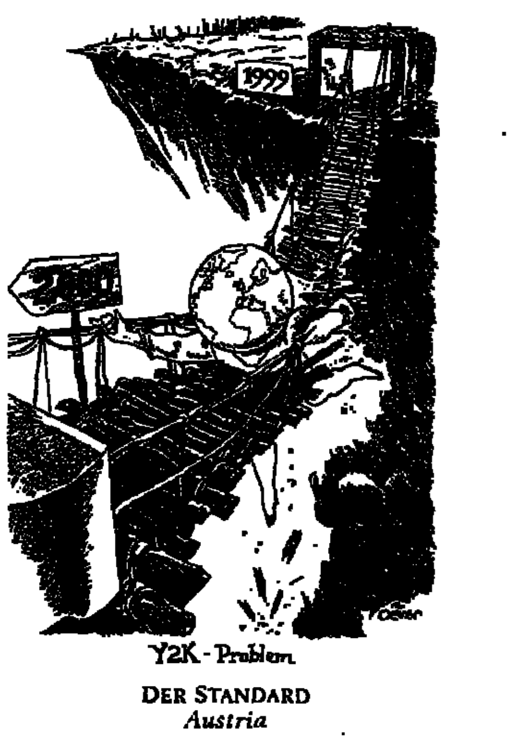
THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD



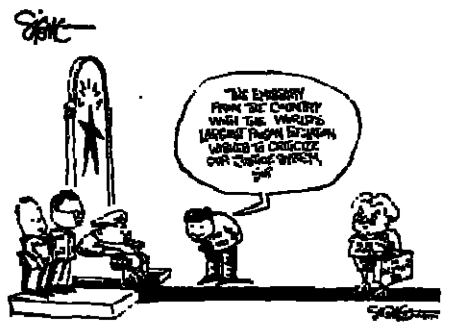
NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
Germany



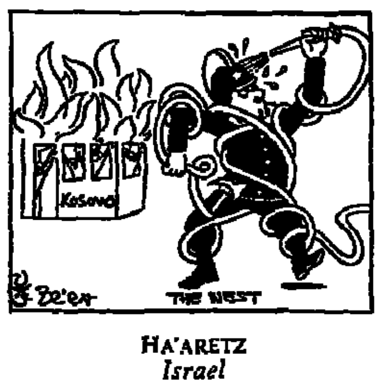
BALTIMORE SUN
US



DER STANDARD
Austria


THE EMBASSY FROM THE COUNTRY WITH THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRISON POPULATION WISHES TO CRITICIZE OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, SIR

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
US



HA'ARETZ
Israel

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

YOMIURI SHIMBUN
Japan

Justice Minister Shozaburo Nakamura was accused of taking home an explanation written by movie superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger about why he was not carrying a passport when he entered Japan last year. Nakamura was asked why he had not submitted the explanation to the section within the ministry that is responsible for such matters. He said he suspected the minister, who is a fan of the actor, had taken the document home to keep as a souvenir. Nakamura said his secretary had simply forgotten to submit the document. Teruya was not convinced by the minister's response. Chief Cabinet Secretary Nonaka said the matter would be further investigated.

◆

MAIL & GUARDIAN
South Africa

THE row over Brian McMillan's use of the phrase "bowl him a coolie creeper" (to mean a delivery in which the ball runs along the ground) offers a double-edged lesson to South Africans... "coolie creeper" – with its association of servile, obsequious conduct – should be struck from the vocabulary out of respect for the Asian community. But we cannot help but feel sympathy for the great all-rounder, who is obviously *not* a racist.

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

هكذا من الاجمل

The question is, am I a woman or am I a wuss?

SUE ARNOLD

My fear and loathing of lacrosse spread to all other sports and all those who played them

OLD ADAGE, new angle – those that can, do; those that can't, teach; those that can't teach, teach PE. I can't remember where I heard it and though it made me smile at the time, it must be a very old new angle because, according to this week's survey by the National Association of Head Teachers, 94 per cent of the 2,126 primary and secondary schools they visited don't have gyms. Sport in schools is apparently heading down the same education cul-de-sac as the chalk monitor, the inkwell and mental arithmetic.

Do we care? More to the point, do I, as the mother of two potential couch-potatoes (as the survey reckons children are becoming, owing to lack of physical exercise) care?

Well, yes and no. It's the old man-or-mouse argument. Not my school-age sons – me. Put it this way. Am I a woman or a wuss, a mother of warrior sons battle-hardened by under-15s rugger on Tuesday afternoons, or a mouse fearful that my treasures will be injured in those horrid rough games? Like most mothers, I suspect, I'm a mixture of both. I want warriors but I want them to be unscathed.

Injuries apart, does the old *mens sana in corpore sano* maxim still apply to children? I don't see why not; it never did me any harm and... good grief, did I really say that? Get a grip, Mrs Arnold. It's not just your memory you're losing, it's the entire plot. PE permanently damaged me and probably my children, too, in that it affected the way I chose to educate them.

I'll start at the beginning. We played lacrosse at school and my right temple still bears the scar inflicted by Cynthia Hislop when she tackled me from behind and then, cradling furiously (yes, I know all about cradling) sped on to score the winning goal against St Bede's. "Well done Cynthia. This is a proud moment for Mt Alvernia," said Miss Pendlebury when she presented the trophy afterwards. My fear and loathing of lacrosse eventually spread to all other sports and everyone who played them, especially girls. I've never understood why men fantasise about schoolgirls in gymslips. Cynthia Hislop in hers, biceps bulging, calves like breeze blocks, lacrosse stick flailing, could have seen off a battalion of battle-hardened warriors single-handed.

It was probably subliminal memories of my own schooldays that prompted me to send my daughters to a weird new school that offered Sanskrit, vegetarian lunches and Vedic dance instead of sport. My friends' daughters played netball and tennis and went on to captain all-women rowing crews at Oxbridge, but if my daughters seethed with secret resentment at my failure to offer them similar sporting opportunities, they never said so. The middle one told me last week that she's been sponsored to run in the London Marathon.

None of this, I appreciate, will endear me to the fanatical female footballer lobby, but the truth must out and anyway I feel I'm vindicated by the way I educated the boys.

No nut biscuits and spiky dancing with bells on their wrists for them. They went to the state primary down the road, which had a brilliant headmaster called Norman who believed in old-fashioned disciplines such as gym. OK, it doubled as assembly hall and dining-room, but it had wall bars and ropes and a vaulting-horse and it gave them good, healthy appetites to eat up all their school dinners. On sports days we went to the nearest park, where they did old-fashioned things such as running and long jump and house relay races. Indeed, the oldest became so enthusiastic about running and jumping and football that at his insistence we sent him to an extremely expensive boarding school outside London surrounded by playing fields, where he did precious little else.

This bucolic idyll came to an abrupt end when the master who taught swimming was dismissed (something to do with his preference for making the prettier boys swim naked, and only teaching them back-stroke) and worried mothers like me brought their children home mid-term and sent them to the nearest day school, which in our case turned out to be one of the 2,126 without a gym.

Meanwhile, the primary school down the road had changed, as my other children were discovering. Norman had gone and a new headmistress had arrived. Instead of gym they did computers. The trouble is, there are no male teachers there any more and women teachers get terribly excited when children fall over and scratch their knees. What this means is that London parents with children who want to be professional footballers before they become brain surgeons (like mine) have to send them to private schools that still have playing fields and gyms and PE teachers (who, by the way, teach brilliantly).

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

ED BALLS, TREASURY ADVISER

Chancellor's golden boy

Ed Balls: Tuesday's Budget will be yet another testament to his policy-framing skills

NEXT WEEK brings Gordon Brown's third full Budget since May 1997. But the Budget is not just, not even mostly, the Chancellor's work. Like the first two, it is the creation of Brown's 32-year-old special adviser, Ed Balls.

Treasury officials are stern in their judgements of their political masters and even sterner about ministers' political appointees. So there could be no higher praise for Balls, Gordon Brown's one-man economic think-tank, than a favourable Treasury verdict. The tall, solid, confident adviser lacks Whitehall polish – he has no patience for the protocol of meetings and minute-taking. But the clever high-flyers who greeted Balls in May 1997 expecting him to be nothing but a nuisance now see him, in the words of one of them, as "a bit of a godsend".

They admire his intellect, his breathtaking work load, his ability to organise a famously disorganised Chancellor. Most of all they like the fact that he is a direct and influential channel to Brown. Persuade the adviser, and you have persuaded the minister too. In short, he is a real power in the land, a magnet for mandarins.

Next week's Budget is Balls's – and Gordon Brown's – third, but the first without Charlie Whelan. The tight-knit family of Gordon, Ed, Charlie and Geoffrey Robinson, formed in the bunker of opposition and cemented over beer and pizzas in Robinson's suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel, was scattered by the Mandelson loan episode at Christmas. But those emotionally cataclysmic events show little sign of derailing the types of policy that the Chancellor will announce in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

The same intellectual stamp has characterised all of Labour's economic plans, from announcing the independence of the Bank of England in the first week of government onwards. And Ed Balls is its originator. He has now spent half his life in the Labour Party, having joined at the age of 16 in the ward in Nottingham chaired by his father. Mr Balls senior is an academic zoologist, an environmentalist and a specialist in testing the toxicity of drugs. He also taught at Nottingham University. The young Ed was born in Norwich (he still supports that city's football team), and went to Nottingham High School. At this fee-paying boys' school he excelled at his lessons, shone on the playing field and dominated the politics and debating societies. He followed in his father's footsteps to Keble College, Oxford, where he read philosophy, politics and economics.

At Oxford he joined all three of the main political parties' university societies, having read a novel in which one of the characters does precisely this in order to meet more people. In short, his was a background of committed Labour morality without being one of traditional Labour culture. He could be socially at ease with Tories even though he did not agree with them. This non-tribalism made Balls in some ways natural New Labour material, rather than a later convert to the transformation of the party in the Nineties.

Indeed, he proved to be an important architect of New Labour, thanks to a key intellectual and political influence, aside from his own family background. This was Lawrence Summers, a former Harvard economics professor who is now the US deputy Treasury secretary.

LIFE STORY

Origins: Born 27 February 1967, in Norwich.
Vital statistics: Aged 32. Married Yvette Cooper MP in 1998. Expecting first child in June.
Educated: Nottingham High School, Keble College, Oxford (first in PPE), Kennedy Memorial scholarship to Harvard University.
Passions: Norwich City FC. cooking, English choral music.
Influences: Harvard economists Larry Summers and Larry Katz..
Career: *Financial Times* leader-writer, adviser to Gordon Brown in opposition and at the Treasury.
Critics say: "It's not Brown's, it's Balls'." (Michael Heseltine on Gordon Brown's use of the expression "post-neoclassical endogenous growth theory")
Admirers say: "Ed is concerned with making life better for ordinary people." (LSE economist Richard Layard)
Rumoured next job: MP for a northern constituency, near his wife's in Pontefract and Castleford

After Oxford, Balls won a Kennedy scholarship to spend two years at the élite Ivy League university, where he studied economics with Summers in 1989-1990. The two men still speak and see each other as often as holding busy and powerful policy jobs on opposite sides of the Atlantic allows.

Balls introduced the Chancellor, while in opposition, to Summers and also to Robert Reich, another former professor who had become labour secretary in the first Clinton administration. A meeting with Alan Greenspan at the same time persuaded Brown of one of his young adviser's key beliefs – the desirability of an independent central bank.

There remains another nexus of connections between the two Treasuries. Stephanie Flanders, a colleague from the *Financial Times*, where Balls once worked, is a speechwriter for Summers. UK officials now regularly look to the US for models for the policies they are drawing up for Britain. It is hard to overstate the influence that the American experience has had on Balls, and therefore on the Labour opposition's strategies before the election and the Labour Government's policies to shape the British economy. Many of the measures announced in Brown's Budgets have their origins in US equivalents.

In a nutshell, the Summers approach combines clarity about the aims of policy with an aggressive pragmatism about the means. He taught Balls to rely on evidence, not prejudice, in designing policy. Equally important, Summers demonstrated the necessity of getting the politics right in order to be able to implement the right economic policies. Policies cannot be drawn up in a vacuum.

It is ironic, therefore, that Balls will never shed the notoriety of having written the pointy-head phrase "post-neoclassical endogenous growth theory" into a pre-election speech by Gordon Brown. It was meant as a joke, but ended up giving Michael Heseltine a fairly good quip of his own ("It's not Brown's, it's Balls'").

It was politics that shaped Labour's election pledge not to raise income tax rates. The policy aims – making low-paid work more attractive and raising the level of income in poor families – do not need higher tax rates. And the Tory victory in 1992 was blamed on the "bombshell" of Labour's income tax plans.

Some acquaintances would argue that, after the initial shock of finding himself in the dirty old game of Westminster politics, Balls became far too political and far too concerned about the saleability of the policies rather than their intrinsic merit. Certainly, he has slipped comfortably into some of the spin doctoring of lobby journalists previously in the domain of Charlie Whelan. A more sympathetic interpretation is that it is a matter of pragmatism; that there is no point in adopting a policy that cannot be sold.

The forthcoming Budget will, in many ways, complete the policy framework Balls has been creating for the past six years. The big changes he has wanted to make will be in place – an independent Bank of England, strict rules limiting government borrowing, and an outline welfare-to-work framework intended to tackle the trap of low income and dependency on benefits.

The new approach has enthused many Treasury civil servants, especially those on the policy side. It has been turbulent at times, however. Both the Chancellor and his adviser have quite a knack for rubbing some people up the wrong way. Although both can be utterly charming, neither hides his disdain for stupidity and neither really likes to be disagreed with.

In 20 months, the Treasury saw the departure of its permanent secretary and its official senior press officer after clashes with Balls, the loss of Whelan and Robinson, and a certain amount of turnover among the junior ministers. But now, for the first time in many years, economic research is back at the heart of what the department does. The machine is starting to work smoothly and eagerly with the Labour team, after a rocky start.

Colleagues and outsiders alike are, almost universally, deeply impressed by Balls's abilities, whatever their initial doubts about his youth and inexperience. His partner in his intellectual and political project has been his wife, Yvette Cooper, a miner's granddaughter who is MP for Pontefract and Castleford. Their romance, which they kept rather quiet at first, came as a bit of a blow to other hopefuls. Former colleagues say that a fair number of women could not resist Balls's good looks and deliciously flirtatious manner.

However, he married a woman who is, in the ways important for a successful long-term relationship, very similar to him, a match for his intellect and his beliefs. Cooper, too, spent some time at Harvard and worked with the Democrats in the 1992 US campaign. Like him, she learnt her allegiance to the Labour Party when very young and was an activist from an early age. Like him, she worked for a while as a journalist – he at the *Financial Times* on his return from the US, she at *The Independent* before the general election campaign of 1997.

New Labour's golden couple married early last year. It was 1998's most fashionable political wedding, taking place in a relaxed seaside hotel where excited children swarmed around and hundreds of guests danced late into the night. A television set in the corner of the bar was tuned to a football match.

The bride, in a brilliant blue dress by Vivienne Westwood, utterly outshone the groom, just as she should on her wedding day. The newly elected MP gave a rousing speech from the ballroom balcony that could be heard by every last guest. Her new husband mumbled slightly into his grey suit. Cooper is now expecting their first baby. Appropriately for a career politician, she is due to give birth just ahead of Parliament's summer recess.

Close friends say that Balls has no ambition – at least for the foreseeable future – to become an MP himself. They dismiss as pure gossip speculation that he will try to get the seat next to Cooper's in Yorkshire at the next election, although some ponder about what he can do after this job. It will certainly be hard to find anything that gives him the same degree of power and sheer intellectual interest.

It will not be easy for the two to combine high-powered dual careers with new parenthood. Balls will find he has even less time than he gets now for passions such as football (both playing and watching).

The couple plan to move to Lambeth, closer to the House of Commons than their current Islington flat. He will work from home in the evenings, with a secure computer link to the Treasury, while she attends the House. They travel up to Castleford at weekends, where there is another electronic connection to Whitehall. If any couple can manage to balance family life with two demanding, high-profile jobs, it will be this one.

Nobody who knows them doubts their determination, their ambition or their commitment to their political beliefs and the Labour Government. Tuesday's Budget will be a testament to all of these qualities. The two of them, still at such an early stage in their careers, will also continue to have a decisive influence over the future of New Labour and its remodelling of the British economy. Those in the party who harbour any hopes that it may yet return to an old-fashioned, left-wing economic policy will first have to contend with two of its brightest stars.

DIANE COYLE

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

30: MARVIN GAYE, SOUL SINGER

MARVIN GAYE'S melodramatic death in 1984, at the age of 45, had the inevitability of a Greek tragedy. There was nowhere else for him to go. Truly, nobody knew the trouble he'd seen.

Gaye was shot dead by his father, using a .38 Smith and Wesson that the singer himself had bought, under the cocaine-fuelled delusion that someone was out to get his family. He gave the gun to his father for protection. Gaye senior, who had never owned a gun in his life, drew it and killed Marvin during a characteristically violent quarrel.

Gaye's mother Alberta always reckoned that her troubled son's death was a kind of suicide. Marvin's drunken, womanising father, a preacher of sorts, who ruled his children with a rod of iron, was not known for his stability. Alberta's view was that Marvin gave the gun to his father and then deliberately infuriated him, knowing what the consequences would be.

It is not an implausible theory given that Gaye, unable in his drug-addled state even to remember his own lyrics, and in the grip of a paranoia so complete that he needed food-tasters, seemed to have reached the end of his road. Shortly before his death he tore out the inside of his television set to silence the threatening voices.

If the best soul music, like blues, is wrought from personal pain, it is little wonder that Marvin Gaye's work has been revered – and frequently sampled – by successive generations of rhythm and blues artistes. But it would be wrong to view Gaye's career as nothing more than a prolonged cry of anguish. "Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing", recorded with Tammi Terrell in 1967, may be the most joyous love song ever released on Motown, a label that made something of a speciality of that sort of thing. For a while, Gaye was king of the romantic duets, recording with Mary Wells, Kim Weston and Diana Ross, as well as with Terrell.

Berry Gordy, the razor-sharp head of that record label, used Marvin in this way because he recognised him as not just the sweetest male voice in his stable, but also the sexiest man. For Gaye, though, the Motown love songs were not merely some commercial confection designed to part teenagers from their spending money. He meant them. When his friend and partner Terrell developed a brain tumour, which later killed her, Gaye was devastated. He spent a year in seclusion.

He resurfaced in 1971 with "What's Going On", "Mercy, Mercy Me", and "Inner City Blues", all of which were million-selling records despite being some distance from the cheery tunes for which Motown was known. At this remove Gaye's lyrics, despairing of poverty, discrimination, and pollution, may seem banal, but the sincerity is so patent that they endure.

Every project on which Gaye embarked, he threw himself into body and soul. The spirituality of "What's Going On" was succeeded by the sexuality of the album *Let's Get It On*, which devoted itself to the art of talking a woman into bed. Gaye lived every track, and began to sink deeper into a morass of financial and drug-related problems.

Remarkably, throughout this period he continued to add excellent tracks to his impressive catalogue – which stretched back to the doo-wop period of the late Fifties – including duets with Diana Ross, and the 1982 single "Sexual Healing".

More than Stevie Wonder, James Brown or even Otis Redding, Marvin Gaye epitomised soul. There's a kind of heroism in submerging yourself in your work as completely as he did, and it may have hastened his untimely end. That he managed to pursue his personal and idiosyncratic path in a hit factory like Motown is a minor miracle.

THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL

In spring a young man's fancy...
An older one won't bother though,
Just slings a battered jacket on,
Whistles his dog and out they go
Across the marsh in early spring
To where the sky is Turner-esque
And puts the distance in between
Himself and in-tray on his desk.

The broadsheet papers clang to sounds
Of feministas going rounds;
They joust and clatter to reviews
And one, at least is always news.
Germaine, with Essex residence
As "good owld gel" takes precedence,
For out in Essex Proper here
Her name is rhyming slang for beer
And have too much *Germaine*, for sure
You'll fall down on the *Suzanne Moore*.

It's Monica Lewinsky Week
(And Month) – Hysteria hits a peak
Her raven hair, her farmgirl hips,
Cheerleader smile in lolly lips
Her skin suffused in Stepford glow
She's set up *now and rightly* so
Though media do as media will
They got the goods. She had the Bill.

And *Bong* "That's it" for *News at Ten*
We'll never see it *Bong* again
So after me: "And finally –
The tapir. Who was late. For tea."

Geoffrey Hughes, the bros McGann
As scousers, speak the way they can.
Alan Bleasdale, Cilla Black
Proper speech ain't what they lack.
Regional accents, pass or fail.
Julie Burchill? Jimmy Nail?
Try to sell them elocution
There's the way to revolution.
Local culture left to rot,
London syphons off the lot
Now you'd take our accents too?
Beryl Bainbridge, shame on you.

"Police Warn of Illegal Clones"
And now patrol the twilight zones.
But what's the charge? And in whose name?
And why do policemen look the same?
You mark my words, they're using clones
They started it with traffic cones
And steadily worked up the chain;
Do check that warrant card again.
Too sci-fi for my muddled brain
I need a pint of best Germaine.

THE WEASEL

An invitation arrives to try some of the peaks of Austrian cuisine and the household's appreciation of foreign films is under threat

YOU KNOW me, ever keen to explore a gastronomic terra nova. So when an invitation to a preview of an Austrian food festival burped out of the fax machine, I whizzed along hotfoot. Temptingly entitled "The Glory of Paprika, Pancakes and Pastries", this Habsburgian blow-out is taking place at London's Langham Hilton from 12 to 21 March. To be honest, I have never previously given much thought to the *cuisine of that mountainous land*, though I was impressed by the equally mountainous dimensions of Landburger Gessler (played by Willoughby Goddard), the Austrian oppressor of William Tell in a long-forgotten television series of the same name.

Another native of Tyrol, the Langham's executive chef Georg Fuchs, assured me that he would be serving up the real thing. "I have been very serious and honest about the dishes, so people can be 100 per cent sure it is how food is served in Austria." Since chef Fuchs's severest critic could not accuse him of excessive levity, you can rest assured that this will be the case.

When I saw an Austrian version of *truite au bleu* on the menu, I wondered how far his pursuit of authenticity went. In A J Liebling's classic culinary memoir, *Between Meals*, the preparation of this dish is described as follows: "a live trout simply done to death in hot water, like a Roman emperor in his bath". Chef Fuchs was shocked when I asked whether he used this technique. "I would never allow a creature to suffer. We keep the fish in a tank, then kill them immediately before boiling. But we tend not to talk about such things when eating."

Following this reassurance, I settled down to a sampling of Austrian fare irrigated by a few glasses of the country's excellent wine. No cracks about anti-freeze, please. That was two decades ago and we've all completely forgotten about it. (Though I might remark that the scam was discovered *when some lunkhead tried to claim* the VAT back on the additive.) My guides to the nosh were two expat guests at the launch, part of the 20,000-strong Austrian contingent in London. They insisted that I should kick off with a small plate of beef stew and dumplings, which proved to be deliciously piquant but with an unexpected texture. "It's called *Beuschel*," they explained while I chomped. "Lungs, heart and – how you say – zer tubing, preferably from a young cow. Have zis with dumplings and you have a perfect dish."

Next, my new friends directed me towards a dish called *Groestl*. "It's a mixture of potato and whatever you have in the fridge," they chorused. "A poor farmer's Sunday lunch." Fortunately, chef Fuchs was not within earshot. Then followed a jellied meat called *Sulze*, a cream-cheese-stuffed ravioli called *Schlutzkrapferl* ("It is, of course, a small *Schlutzkrapferl*," my chums helpfully explained), a mini Weiner schnitzel, cabbage stuffed with veal, and another plateful of *Beuschel* tubing. Finally, a tremendous tranche of *Apfelstrudel* in a lake of vanilla sauce. Staggering down the steps of the Langham, I was Gessler to a T.

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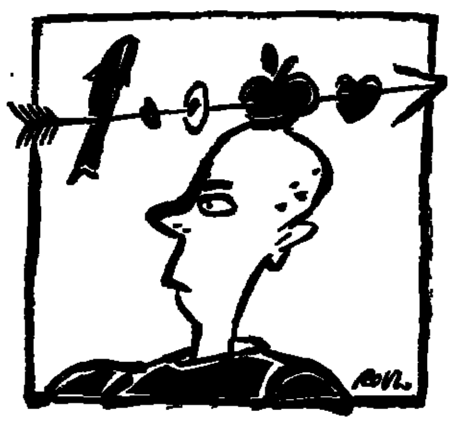
I WAS delighted to discover that the Weasel family are patrons of the arts, if only by proxy. Thanks in part to the gigantic sums which Mrs W has handed over to Habitat over the years (most recently for a chandelier apparently made of wire coat-hangers), the furniture shop has been able to sponsor the Patrick Caulfield exhibition now on at the Hayward Gallery. If you *haven't done so already, I urge you to* pop along. The familiar reproductions of Caulfield's *oeuvre* scarcely convey the scale of the artist's work.



His main subjects are restaurants, bars, food (don't miss the boiled egg and toast soldiers in *Interior with a Picture*, 1985-86) and furniture. Hence the involvement of Habitat. But I wonder if the chain was wise to announce: "Habitat empathises with Patrick Caulfield's vision of contemporary interiors. One can almost imagine these scenes being furnished by Habitat."

The company may wish to be associated with the *moulded plastic* chairs and table of *Dining Recess*, 1972, but the uncomfortable bamboo bar stools of *Paradise Bar*, 1974, are scarcely at the cutting edge of modern design.

In many of his works, Caulfield displays an infatuation with painting things he actively dislikes. The catalogue notes that in *Green Drink*, 1984, "he patiently duplicated some William Morris wallpaper that he found particularly vile". The same applies to a nightmarish oil lamp that he painted with mind-boggling verisimilitude in *Trou Normand*, 1997: "When he remarks that the lamp 'was hell to paint', he is referring as much to the emotional as to the technical difficulty of the challenge."

I very much hope that Habitat's "empathy" for the artist does not mean that its shops will start filling with examples of *le style* Caulfield. It's one thing when Mrs W fills the house with a tangle of coat-hangers, but it would be quite another having to live with flock wallpaper, Bavarian beer steins, buttoned leather banquettes...

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WHEN YOU think of the enormous numbers who live there, the suburbs of London must be among the most artistically deprived places in Britain. Consider *the* recent closure of the Greenwich Theatre, virtually in the shadow of the Millennium dustbin. *However,* for the past six years we in Beckenham have benefited from an arts centre called The Studio. The first such venture in the area since a chap called David Bowie ran the Beckenham Arts Lab in the Sixties, it has become a popular venue for theatre shows, concerts, exhibitions and such like.

Mrs W and I are regulars at the film shows. I have a fondness for Continental *classics*, which end with an abrupt *FIN* at a random point in the narrative, but we have also chortled at the stylish ironies of the Coen bothers and (last night, as it happens) cudgelled our brains over David Mamet's ingenious thriller *The Spanish Prisoner*.

All this is now under threat because Bromley Council proposes to end its £150,000 annual grant to The Studio. Ironically, the council is opening a £6.25m Olympic-size swimming-pool bang next door to The Studio on 1 April, though there is a similar facility about a mile away at Crystal Palace. This amount would keep The Studio going for the next 41 years. Brawn has *triumphed over brains* yet again. The odd thing is that The Studio flourished under Bromley's previous Tory-controlled council. Its closure has been proposed by our current overlords, who are, ironically enough, the lovable Lib Dems. A final decision is *to be made* at a council meeting next Thursday night. In this case, a sudden *FIN* would not be welcome.

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

A post-modern witch's brew

THERE WAS a time when we really did think it was all about broomsticks and black hats. Today, of course, we are all supposed to know better. But Phyllis W Curott, as well as being a witch, is an anti-discrimination lawyer from Manhattan and therefore not used to taking anything for granted. She has, consequently, prepared a list of obvious questions (and their answers) to be given to ignorant journalists before they interview her.

Witchcraft: Myth vs Reality, it says at the top. The myths include: witches worship the devil, cast spells to harm people, boil eye-of-toad and wing-of-bat, and trick young maidens into eating poisoned apples. None of these, you will not be surprised to hear, are true. (Though witches do wear black from time to time, says Ms Curott, but only *because as a colour it is slimming*). She should know. She is not just an ordinary witch but the founder and High Priestess of the Circle of Ara and the Minoan Fellowship in New York.

We should not scoff at the crib sheet. The svelte High Priestess has just written *Book of Shadows: rediscovering the ancient wisdom of witchcraft and magic* and has been on tour *across the US to promote it, doing up* to 30 interviews a day, with TV and radio chat-show hosts who cannot find the time to read a book from one Hallowe'en to the next. There an eight-point Q&A list comes in very handy.

But those of us who are a little more diligent might like to skim it. The opening gives you the general idea: "Moonlight filters in through the city skylight. The air is fragrant with the scent of flowers and the smoke of burning incense. Candles flicker and glow, bathing our bodies in golden light. Holding hands, we begin a quiet chant: 'Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate, Demeter, Kali ...' *Singing the names of ancient goddesses*, our voices blend and rise, our bodies sway and dance, faster and faster we circle ..."

Very Hammer House of Horror. But modern witchcraft, the high priestess insists, is nothing to do with the black arts of popular imagination. "This is Wicca. It is a revival of the ancient religion of the Goddess. It is a religion of nature," she says. She smooths down her off-duty-lawyer designer casuals, and shifts uncomfortably *among the piles of books and* over-flowing papers. We have met in the cramped office of her UK publishers, Piaktus Books, in a tiny street just off Tottenham Court Road.

There she begins talking about the cycles of the earth, rhythm of the seasons and a "spiritual practice" drawn from the metaphors of agriculture. And if most modern witches are, as she admits, *urban professionals that only* points to what is lacking in modern life.

"Ours is a profoundly alienated culture in which people are unhappy because we have stripped the sacred from our world," she says. So she goes back to the religion of the old times – of the sibyls of Alexandria and Ancient Greece, the native peoples of the Americas and the folk religion of Europe until it was suppressed by the Church in medieval witch-hunts which amounted to "the women's holocaust".

This, of course, is a load of romantic tosh. The idea that modern witchcraft lies in unbroken tradition with *what its adherents like to describe as* "the old religions" has been demolished over the past decade by scholars such as Ronald Hutton, who have shown that very few traditions go back beyond the 18th century and many of these were self-conscious post-Restoration revivals after the decades of Puritanism that followed the English Civil War. Worse than that, many of the modern Wiccan rituals were invented in the 1950s by a chap called Gerald Gardner.

Most British pagans get cross when *you say this. But Phyllis Curott, being* a post-modern kind of American witch, has the good grace to acknowledge all that. "Yes, this is a new spirituality. There's no way we could be practising the Elysian mysteries from 4,000 years back – no-one knows what happened in the temples of the ancient world precisely because the rituals were secret."

But to her, historical continuity is not *the point. Similarities and parallels are* enough. And she is happy to find them wherever she can. "There's been a tremendous amount of scholarship, especially in Gaelic and Sanskrit, that has enabled us to more accurately reconstruct the practices of the past. Other things have survived through folklore among families in southern Italy or in West Virginia, who brought them from England in the 16th century. Ours is a magpie religion."

Today's witches don't cast spells or worship the devil *MSI*

Indeed it is. Along with Gardner's occultist confections she mixes into her witch's cauldron hefty dollops of feminism, Jungian psychotherapy and the new eco-consciousness of our times. Such syncretism she sees as a strength rather than a weakness. "It helps us address the imbalances of the modern world – breaking through to a non-scientific level of reality."

Witchcraft is, she insists, a very contemporary religion. "It is consonant with quantum physics and chaos theory – the idea that everything is bundles of vibrating interacting energy."

It also allows you to dress up in long silken gowns, make references to Kubla Khan and Xanadu, address members as thee and thou and bring your incantations to a close with olde worlde phrases like "So mote it be!"

"It's just a reminder of how old all this stuff is. I'm not afraid of being mocked. Only those who feel threatened resort to mockery," she concludes, with a clever bit of lawyer's rhetoric. It could have been much worse. She could have placed a hex on me. But then modern witches don't do that sort of thing.

DAYS LIKE THESE

10 MARCH 1884

EDMOND DE GONCOURT observes in his journal:

"Strange how an old man of letters still feels a stupid satisfaction at seeing his work printed in a newspaper. *This morning, before seven, I* went downstairs two or three times in my nightshirt to see if the *Gil Blas* was in my letterbox and if it contained the first instalment. Then I roamed around Paris, looking for my posters. Sacrificing a quarter of my fee for the novel, I ended the day with a *visit to Bing's* where I paid 2,000 francs for a masterpiece by Korin, a writing-desk in gold lacquer decorated on top and inside with chrysanthemums with golden blossoms and mother-of-pearl leaves, a thing in the most wonderfully barbaric taste."

11 MARCH 1953

NANCY MITFORD, (pictured) writes in her diary from Paris:

"Three elections for the Académie Française just over and one more to come. These elections are seldom concluded without a great deal of canvassing, *since the candidate* is supposed to pay a visit to each of the immortals and respectfully beg for his vote. The visits are said to be terrifying and rather inconclusive. A few people promise to vote for their visitor, but most content themselves with assuring *him that they will do their* very best for him; nobody refuses definitely. Marshal Juin got in without paying a single visit but M Fernand Gregh, one of the new members, must have paid, in all, 640, because this is the 16th time in his 80 years that he has presented himself."

12 MARCH 1944

IRIS ORIGO, in German-occupied Tuscany, writes in her diary:

"I hear the broadcast of the Pope's benediction of the faithful in Piazza San Pietro – a crowd chiefly composed of the homeless and starving refugees who have flocked into the city. It was a short address, without any political flavour: an admission of the Pope's *inability to stop or* mitigate the horrors of war even within his own city, a final appeal to the rulers on both sides – and to the congregation before him, a repetition of the well-known words of Christian consolation: "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and *heavy-laden*". Perhaps *never*, in all the history of suffering humanity, have these words been spoken to so great an assembly of the homeless, the penniless and the bereft."

IAN IRVINE

It's time to abolish slavery

CLASSIC PODIUM

From a speech by William Wilberforce, MP, supporting a bill for the abolition of slavery introduced by his friend, the Prime Minister, William Pitt

(12 MAY 1789)

"*WHEN WE* consider the vastness of the continent of Africa; when we reflect how all other countries have for some centuries past been advancing in happiness and civilisation; when we think how in this same period all improvement in Africa has been defeated by her intercourse with Britain; when we reflect that it is we ourselves that have degraded them to that wretched brutishness and barbarity which we now plead as the justification of our guilt; how the slave trade has enslaved their minds, blackened their character, and sunk them so low in the scale of animal beings that some think the apes *are of a higher class, and fancy* the orang-utan has given them the go-by.

What a mortification must we feel at having so long neglected to think of our guilt, or attempt any reparation! It seems, indeed, as if we had determined to forbear from all interference until the measure of our folly and wickedness was so full and complete; until the impolicy which eventually belongs to vice was become *so plain and glaring* that not an individual in the country should refuse to join in the abolition.

Let us then make such amends as we can for the mischiefs we have done to the unhappy continent; let us recollect what Europe itself was no longer ago than three or four centuries. What if I should be able to show this House that in a civilised part of Europe, in the time of our Henry VII, there were people who actually sold their own children? What if I should tell them that England itself was that country? What if I should point out to them that the very place where this inhuman traffic was carried on was the city of Bristol?

Ireland at that time used to drive a considerable trade in slaves with these neighbouring barbarians; but, a great *plague having infested* the country, the Irish were struck with a panic, suspected (I am sure very properly) that the plague was a punishment sent from heaven for the sin of the slave trade, and therefore *abolished* it.

Let us put an end at once to this inhuman traffic – let us stop this effusion of human blood. The true way to virtue is by withdrawing from temptation; let us then *withdraw from these wretched* Africans those temptations to fraud, violence, cruelty, and injustice, which the slave trade furnishes... let us not traffic, only that we may set kings against their subjects, subjects against their kings, sowing discord in every village, *fear and* terror in every family, setting millions of our fellow-creatures a-hunting each other for slaves, creating fairs and markets for human flesh through one whole continent of the world, and, under the name of policy, concealing from ourselves all the baseness and iniquity of such a traffic.

Why may we not hope, ere long, to see Hanse-towns established on the coast of Africa as they were on the Baltic? It is said the Africans are idle, but they are not too idle, at least, to catch one *another; 700 to 1,000 tons of* rice are annually bought of them; by the same rule, why should we not buy more? At Gambia 1,000 *of them are* seen continually at work; why should not some more thousands be set to work in the same manner? It is the slave trade *that causes* their idleness and every other mischief.

I have one word more to add upon a *most material* point but *it is a point* so self-evident that I shall be extremely short. *It will appear* from everything which I have said, that it is not regulation, it is not mere palliatives, that can cure this enormous evil. Total abolition is the only possible cure.

The Jamaica report, indeed, *admits* much of the evil, but recommends it to us to regulate the trade, that no persons should be kidnapped or made slaves contrary to the custom of Africa. But may they not be made slaves unjustly, and yet by no means contrary to the custom of Africa? I have shown they may, for all the customs of Africa are rendered savage and unjust through the *influence of this trade*; besides, how can we discriminate between slaves justly and unjustly made? Or, if we could, does any man believe the British captains can be prevailed upon to refuse all such slaves as have not been fairly, honestly, and uprightly enslaved?

But granting even that they should do this, yet how would the rejected slaves be recompensed? They are brought, as we are told, from 3,000 to 4,000 miles off, and exchanged like cattle until they reach the coast. It is *the slave trade that is the spring* of all this internal traffic, and the remedy cannot be applied without abolition."

هكذا من الاجهل

THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Can our island race ever link up with the Continent?

IAN BURUMA

Voltaire popularised the idea that Britain was an enlightened island of liberty facing tyranny

A long-standing argument: England and France fight for world supremacy in James Gillray's 1798 cartoon *Mary Evans Picture Library*

EUROPEAN ANGLOPHOBES and the more extreme British Eurosceptics agree about one thing. They believe England is so uniquely, absolutely different from the continent of Europe that, with or without a tunnel, the Channel can never be bridged. Napoleon was convinced that Albion, the perfidious nation of shopkeepers, would, out of sheer spite, do anything to stop France from uniting European nations in a federation of "free peoples". More than a century later General de Gaulle blocked England's entry into the Common Market because, in his view, England was not part of Europe, and if it were to join the Continent none the less, England would no longer be England and that would be a terrible shame, for England and for Europe.

The sense of unease about Britain's membership of a pan-European enterprise is still with us, even under a relatively Euro-friendly Labour government. Now that Tony Blair has announced his official enthusiasm for the euro, we might look again at what, apart from a stretch of cold and increasingly dirty water, it is that has divided Britain (or should I simply say England) from the Continentals. What are those vices and virtues that Continental Anglophobes, as well as Anglophiles, saw as so distinctive about England over the past 200 years or so?

Voltaire, who lived in England for several years in the 1720s, set the tone for a particular kind of Anglophilia, still echoed in our time in the nationalism of some Tory Eurosceptics. He popularised the notion that Britain was an enlightened island of liberty facing a Continent of darkness and tyranny. Having arrived in London less than 50 years after the Glorious Revolution, from France, where an absolute monarchy stilled reigned, Voltaire had reason to feel this way. More surprising perhaps, though, again, quite understandable in his time, was his admiration for British intellectual life. In Britain writers and scientists were honoured; in France they were more likely to be locked up. But Voltaire admired Britain in particular for its combination of civil liberties and commercial enterprise. Speaking as a kind of Thatcherite *avant la lettre*, he believed that the two went together. Trade, he said, made the British rich and free, and freedom helped to expand their trade.

And not just the British. Voltaire also recognised the emancipatory effect of trade. Foreigners came to London to make their fortunes because, to a greater extent than was common elsewhere, they were able to do so. Eighteenth-century London was like 17th-century Amsterdam, or New York today: a haven for refugees, adventurers, artists and fortune-hunters from all over the world. The Royal Exchange, Voltaire wrote, was a place where Jews, Christians and Muslims "transact together as though they all professed the same religion, and give the name of Infidel to none but bankrupts".

There were many things Voltaire did not admire about England: a popular press obsessed with scandal and gossip, Shakespeare's vulgar entertainments, a boorish underclass, a snooty upper class, bad food and worse manners. But his love of British liberties never wavered. Freedom of trade and religion, an empirical approach to science, and constitutional limits on the monarchy – these made Britain into a model for the European Enlightenment.

Others despised Britain for precisely the same reasons. French revolutionaries such as Rousseau hated monarchy in any form. They thought so-called British liberalism was a sham to keep the rich and well-born in power. Men of the monarchist right in France attacked Britain for its materialism and its crass and shallow culture, and the plebeian disorder resulting from too much freedom – pretty much the same thing, in other words, that anti-Americans say about the US today.

France has always been rich in Anglophobic literature, richer, in fact, than Germany. One of the most interesting French tracts was written in London, by a refugee from the failed anti-monarchist revolution of 1848, Alexandre Ledru-Rollin, who had enjoyed the distinction of governing France for two hours before he was forced to flee across the Channel. His pamphlet, entitled *The Decline of England*, put the anti-British case in a way that still strikes some familiar notes. Apart from the usual stuff about the vulgarity of British "culture, the awful weather and the ghastly food, Ledru-Rollin criticised the grip on power by a commercial and social upper class or, as he put it, an "aristocracy of the crown, of the land, and of the counting-house". He also had scorn for the "irrationality" of British common law, so different from the logic of the French legal system.

In France, he said, "logic is a religion". The French will pursue an idea to its end. And, most important of all, France speaks for Europe, if not the world, whereas Britain, that nation of selfish traders, speculators, stock-jobbers and greedy toffs, "has never raised its eyes above its masts and its cargoes". (The Continental suspicion that Britain joined the European Common Market only for commercial reasons, is still in this vein.)

In 1855 Ledru-Rollin, together with other European exiles in London, such as Giuseppe Mazzini and Lajos Kossuth, signed a manifesto for a free, republican Europe. "To ensure [victory]," it read, "we have but to inscribe, not only upon our flag, but on our hearts, on our plans of war, in our every act, the grand word of European solidarity." Even though it was published in London by an English friend of Karl Marx, there was no British signature on this document.

Given the reputation for selfish commercialism, for rating the Stock Exchange more highly than fine pan-European ideals, it is not at all surprising that anti-British (and anti-American) feeling should often have been mixed up with anti-Semitism. At the time of the Dreyfus trial in 1895, a book appeared with the arresting title, *L'Anglais est-il un Juif?* (Is the Englishman a Jew?). Its author, one Louis Martin, argued that Anglo-Saxons were Jews in disguise. The word "Anglo-Saxon", he maintained, was in fact derived from the name Isaacson. Jews had infiltrated Britain in ancient times and had infected the country with their mercantile, blood-sucking ways. Jewish Britain and the Freemasons, he believed, were busy plotting to dominate Europe and undermine the glory of France.

Now, Martin was not an intellectual heavyweight, and his arguments were never in the mainstream of French thinking. But they were an extreme version of a particular kind of anti-liberalism, which has flared up at regular intervals in Europe, either from the left or from the right. Kaiser Wilhelm II, especially after he lost the Great War, liked to rant about "Juda-England". In its worship of commerce, Britain had lost its sense of blood, soil and honour. The Kaiser was convinced that the native country of his mother (Queen Victoria's daughter Vicky) could join Europe only when it had been purged of its Jews, its Freemasons and its pro-Americans.

Although they were never couched in such crude or extreme terms, the Thatcher period brought out many of these traditional antagonisms. It was, of course, Mrs Thatcher who signed the Single European Act, tying Britain more closely to Europe than ever before. But, as though to compensate for her policies, she promoted a kind of nationalism that was designed to irritate Anglophobes, and even Anglophiles.

The common image of Thatcher's Britain was a traditional Anglophobe's nightmare: a country ruthlessly dedicated to material self-interest and doctrinaire free trade, with a thuggish underclass and a brutal popular press. To be sure, what seemed vulgar, materialistic and selfish to some was seen as liberating by many others, in Britain as well as abroad. But Thatcherite propaganda, if not British policies themselves, exaggerated the traditional divisions between what Thatcherites would have described as British "liberalism" and Continental "socialism".

All this seems a long time ago, now that we live in a Europe governed by social democrats. The language of the Blairites has been positively Europhiliac compared to that of the Thatcherites. But does this mean that the old divisions between Britain and the Continent have been made to disappear by a wave of Tony's magic wand? Britain's initial aloofness from the euro would suggest not. For Blair has swiped too much from Thatcher to be called a simple European-style social democrat. Compared to his colleagues on the left in France, Italy and Germany, Blair is a Tory. On social policy he may have the zeal of a stern vicar, but his economics are classically liberal. And yet he is unlike Tory Eurosceptics.

Tory Eurosceptics typically believe in British exceptionalism. Each nation has its own unique traditions and institutions, and to think that Europeans could become more like the British, or vice versa, is neither likely nor desirable. Tory Eurosceptics are nationalists who prefer to deal with other nationalists, even when they are enemies, or perhaps especially so. Because Britain cannot influence Europe very much, it is better to stay away, and go it alone.

Blair, on the other hand, thinks, not without a hint of arrogance, that he can change Europe, and convert it to Blairism. John Major, too, thought he could influence the Europeans, but he was hindered by his own party. Tories are, of course, right to say that nations have their own traditions, but traditions change. Just as Britain's liberal institutions have been influenced in the past by Italy, France and the Netherlands, Continental institutions have been influenced by Britain. The Voltairean idea of a free Britain facing a Continent of tyranny cannot be sustained.

All members of the European Union can freely elect their governments and criticise them in their press. This has come about partly because of the influence of British and American ideas. In some respects, indeed, other Europeans are now governed more democratically than the British. European economies are also more liberal than ever before. They were forced in this direction by globalisation, but up to a point they also followed the Thatcherites, whose influence was as stimulating as their rhetoric was disliked. Britain was the first country to adapt to the "global economy".

But what about the European Union itself? After all, Britain's historical bugbears were not so much individual nations as European empires, ruled from Paris or Berlin. Here British scepticism can be a positive asset. For the European Union is not a democratic institution. And if the dream of a federal Europe, first articulated by decent men who never wanted to see another European war, were to degenerate into a pseudo-superstate run by authoritarian bureaucrats, it would be a disaster for all of us.

However, to picture the future as a conflict between Britain and "Europe" is a distortion. The extreme Tory view of "Eurosceptic tanks" taking the beaches of Normandy to reclaim European freedom is self-flattering nonsense. A return to the pre-war status of competing nation states is no longer feasible; European institutions are already too much entangled for that.

What is needed is a careful calibration of national political institutions and European ones. And Britain should help to ensure that the latter are open and free. The authority of the European Union should be limited to measures that facilitate the free movement of trade, goods and people within Europe. This means that a number of common laws and regulations have to be established in Brussels, and some national laws and regulations adapted at home. But it does not mean that we have to strive towards a centralised European state.

This is not a struggle between liberal Britons and illiberal Continentals, for it is not at all clear that most Continental Europeans would wish for such a thing. If we were to speak in historical terms, we could, of course, identify liberal British traditions and tyrannical, protectionist Continental ones. But we could also draw an historical arc from the Baltic states, down through Copenhagen, Hamburg and Amsterdam, and thence to Lisbon and Milan, an arc of free-trading, liberal cities, whose traditional interests and preferences are now far more dominant in Europe than the blood-and-soil instincts of Continental despots. It is that Europe of free-trading Anglophiles which needs Britain most of all, not as an island fortress, or an offshore haven, but as a leading ally within the common European fold.

The author's 'Voltaire's Coconuts: Or Anglomania in Europe' is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £18.99

BAROMETER

SALLY CHATTERTON

Cheek of the week

How ironic that Ms Bainbridge, recent winner of a W H Smith accolade, talks about "nasal and stupid" accents. How interesting the claims that "you don't take people seriously who talk badly". I fear she applied those thoughts to deleterious effect where her daughter Rudi Davies (pictured) was concerned. Was the flame-haired actor sent to too many elocution lessons? Certainly the poor girl has a mouth so full of plums she can barely speak, giving the impression that she is far from Mensa material.

Egghead of the week

Talking of Mensa, a report this week suggested that bald men may be more intelligent than those with a full head of hair. So take one bald chimp (Jambo) cross it with the freshly coiffed William Hague, and the Tories have the perfect candidate to solve the banana wars (see above). Watch those opinion polls go bananas.

The prince and the showgirl

Permanent hair loss can also be caused by high testosterone levels. Prince Philip, arch-diplomat, on a visit to London's theatreland seemed particularly interested in engaging a scantily clad troupe from the musical *Chicago* in conversation about their work. A past master of the gauche *faux pas*, the Duke of Edinburgh was on his best behaviour – no mention of slitty eyes and not a pot belly in sight.

Daughter of God

She's not bald and she hasn't got a pot belly, but Barbie, as we learnt last week, is a busy girl. Not only is she an Olympic skater also holds masters' degre and is a member of the US Military. Now we find out how she manages to fit ... all in: she's omnipotent. The Sally Army, in an article in its newspaper, compares Barbie to Jesus. Move over David Icke.

Image of the week

A picture to warm the cockles of your heart? Or one for the rogues' gallery? Facing fresh calls for his resignation over leaked reports, Robin Cook celebrated his 25th year in politics with this family portrait including his wife, mother, sons and a lone girlfriend. It's unfortunate – or apposite – that in this study, the only person who looks as though he wants to be there is Cook himself.

MY WEEK

MICHAEL O'MARA, PUBLISHER OF 'MONICA'S STORY'

Michael O'Mara: 'Thrilled'

Sunday

Morning activities consist of collecting signatures to prevent a multiplex cinema being built near my home at Crystal Palace. Andrew Morton's wife calls to tell me he's in hospital with a broken ankle. I'm thinking: "Oh no. A huge publicity extravaganza is hard enough; on crutches it's much harder."

Monday

I am not surprised to find that certain serious newspapers are quoting the spoiler attributing it to Andrew Morton. This annoys people who phone me up and whinge. I've tried to prevent Monica from seeing the negative publicity – she's been a nervous wreck all week.

I do lots of interviews with radio and press, it's bloody non-stop. I have to pay some attention to publishing this book.

In the evening, I watch football. Morton is a Leeds boy and is completely mad about them; I'm supporting them on his behalf. My fax machine blows up and dies; something has melted, and it smells horrible.

Tuesday

I have rows with more or less everyone today. The main problem over the last few weeks has been jealousies – everyone wants a piece of the action. If every book were like this, I wouldn't have lived past 30. *Diana: Her True Story* was much more stressful, though the tabloids practically accused us of killing Diana. It is unpleasant sometimes, but the pay is good.

I get a call from Piers Morgan from *The Mirror* saying "Oh Christ, our exclusive is down the tubes". The *New York Daily News* has got hold of the tape from the Barbara Walters interview and *The Sun* is now using it to claim the first Monica interview. We decide to put a picture of Monica holding *The Mirror* on the front cover of tomorrow's paper to show where the real deal is. Sometimes everything seems to be my fault; everyone is blaming me; it's another territorial war. The most important thing is to remain in good humour.

When I get home I realise I have been so busy that I have run out of wine. Usually I have about 100 bottles, but now I have only one. I love wine and not having any is like forgetting you are married, which is hard for me as my wife is the managing director of Michael O'Mara books.

Wednesday

Today, we send Andrew plus crutches to the States. He is doing the publicity there and Monica is coming to Britain. I get a call from Marsha, her mother. She's a dear thing. She loves the book. I am trying to encourage her to come over here. I think Monica would really appreciate it.

Thursday

The switchboard is in meltdown dealing with publicity enquiries. I organise my office with a corner which I call the Monica grotto. There's a book and poster display and I make sure I do my interviews there as it helps to sell the book!

Get back from the BBC in time to watch the Jon Snow interview. It is great to see, but Jon Snow never quite gets Monica to relax. She does terribly well and answers questions in a forthright manner.

Friday

Up at six. I've got a busy day ahead. I check the coverage in the newspapers; there's a lot of good stuff. A review of sorts in the *Telegraph* makes me roar with laughter; it says that Kenneth Starr is a regular guy just doing his job and Linda Tripp was acting out of duty. It's amazing. I actually see someone buying the book today; talk is good but we need sales. I am thrilled to hear that Andrew has been received warmly by the American media.

I have got to work out how to get Monica into this country without her being trampled by the press. She is arriving over the weekend. I have a long bath and go to bed early in preparation for my daughter Lucy's 10th birthday party tomorrow.

INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE

The 'high' arts are more popular than ever. So are we really dumbing down? Or are we being persuaded to do so? By **David Lister**

We're not as dumb as they like to think we are

DUMB BRITANNIA
5. THE CONCLUSION

In March 1960, the television company Rediffusion put on *The Birthday Party* by the young playwright Harold Pinter. It was watched by 11 million viewers and was described by the *Daily Mirror* as "a play to scorch the nerve ends". A month later, another of his plays was broadcast and went to number one in the week's ratings, beating the popular variety show *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*.

It is inconceivable that such a sequence of events could happen today. One-off dramas of any sort are an endangered species; from the world of serious theatre they are all but extinct. The BBC won't screen them, let alone ITV. Even if they did, *far fewer than 11 million* of us would watch. Somewhere across the decades, the arbiters of culture have lost faith in the public. They assume there is no longer the appetite to stretch our cultural horizons and move beyond the mainstream. Or *have the cultural decision-takers* lost faith in themselves?

The last controller of Radio 3 left after enduring criticism for allegedly diluting the purity of the network and aping Classic FM. He had to fight on two fronts as his corporation masters demanded *higher ratings*. *News at Ten* is moved to make way for adventure movies. Germaine Greer analyses teen and sub-teen magazines for girls and notes that nothing *in them would suggest that* their readers had ever read a book. The English National Opera has, with some success, used posters of bare-chested, hunky backstage crew members to market past seasons and even now uses full frontal nudity *on posters to advertise Orpheus and Eurydice*. To sell a classical music album, record companies pose the violinist Vanessa-Mae coming out of the sea in a see-through dress, and the cellist Ofra Harnoy embracing her instrument as it rests provocatively between her legs.

Shakespeare, our national playwright, was pretty common fare on the BBC until the mid-Eighties. Few programmers would risk him now. Indeed, quite astonishingly, a BBC Shakespeare season, promoted *with huge publicity* as "the most comprehensive Shakespeare season ever seen on television", had everything from animation to quizzes, but included just one production of a Shakespeare play. So much for the most comprehensive season ever.

An arbitrary snapshot, certainly. And we could take just such an arbitrary snapshot of the cultural scene to make the opposite case. Racine can play to full houses in London's West End; there are *queues down* Piccadilly for Monet; Radio 3 has a weekend largely devoted to Messiaen and is busy commissioning new works; the Turner, Booker and Whitbread prizes are *televised* and discussed at length; literature festivals abound; London *has more symphony orchestras* than dog tracks; *Tosca* can sell out the Royal Albert Hall.

As John Sutherland (who teaches English literature) said, introducing this series, there are more classic titles in print than at any period in British *cultural history*. He declared: "A culture in which Jane Austen (in film, TV and print) is a best-seller, where *Shakespeare in Love* is packing cinemas and where *Noel's House Party* dies for lack of viewers, can't be all that dumb."

But it is also worth remembering that after the massive success of the BBC's adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* its then controller, Michael Jackson, went on the radio the next *morning* and apologised *for the fact* that so many years had gone by without regular classic serials. BBC producers had decided in their patronising arrogance that there was no public demand for them.

So have we dumbed down? What *does seem clear is that some of the* more common laments are not borne out by fact. To test out the dumbing down theory as regards radio – and regular complaints that both Radio 3 and Radio 4 have lost their way – we compared schedules now, *10 years ago, and 20 years ago*. Not only were they similar, they were darn near identical.

But, even here, the issue is a subtle one. The titles of the programmes may not have changed; it is the banter, mispronunciations and talking down of the presenters. Not easy to quantify.

Perhaps this is a debate in which *more entrenched positions* could have been taken five years ago. The education system is ridding itself of some of its less rigorous procedures – empathy questions masquerading as a *history* exam, the lack of art and music in primary schools. Now every 10-year-old will have a passing acquaintance with Cézanne, and new A-levels are being drawn up which will insist on the study of literature pre-1770 as well as pre-1900.

All well? Not quite. Mr Blunkett has now announced that primary schools will no longer have to follow *programmes of study in history*, music and art, as numeracy and literacy programmes must take precedence. Children are hungry for literature. More than 8,000 children's books are published in the UK every year. Yet the children's author Helen Cresswell *says that she is continually* asked to simplify her books.

David Blunkett laments that cartoons are dumbing down our children. Opponents say *The Simpsons* is the wittiest cartoon satire there has ever been.

Even if we are on the verge of turning out budding impressionists from our primary schools, it seems that their elders continue with a less rigorous education. Dr John Madicott, *a tutor at Exeter College*, Oxford, writes in the *Oxford Magazine* of the university's history syllabus: "It is now possible to take finals without ever having encountered the Magna Charta or the Reformation, the Revolution of 1688 or the Reform *Bill of 1832... what has emerged* is not a new syllabus but an old one broken into pieces."

Publishers no longer dwell on literature when they market a book. This year's Whitbread biography prize-winner, Amanda Foreman, posed *semi-naked in Tatler*. Robin Baird-Smith, managing director of the publisher George Duckworth, says: "I see a growing cult of the personality of the author as against the actual quality of the book. In the past, editors would make a judgement about its intrinsic merits as a piece of literature. Now they think *about the shape of the author's* legs, whether she's nubile or went out with Mick Jagger."

But any discussion of dumbing down must begin and end with television and the media. Most insidious and deliberately deceptive is the way *that TV has redefined its terms*. There are many hours of drama; but drama now means *EastEnders*, *The Bill*, and anything with a doctor in it. It does not mean plays. Within the last month, some of TV's best-known writers, including *Pride and Prejudice*'s Andrew Davies, have accused the BBC of selling drama down the river. A former head of BBC drama, Mark Shivas, adds: "*The BBC just aren't making films* any more. They would rather make more docu-soaps." The similarly ratings-obsessed Channel 4 has developed a curious obsession with sex; *Channel 5 has alarmed the* Independent Television Commission with its "inappropriate use of erotic material".

Television documentaries, too, have changed. Jonathan Dimbleby claims: "These days, I feel as if I belong to an almost extinct species, because the television culture in which I operate is antipathetic to documentaries that don't deal *immediately with human emotion*."

But there is a more subtle dumbing down; one that masquerades as promoting the arts; one that is embraced, ironically enough, by *government and many in key positions* in the arts. It is what this weekend's Culture Wars conference describes as "the tyranny of relevance": making education and culture more relevant to everyday life. Thus enters the focus group to displace the creative mind. As Barney Hoskyns wrote yesterday, even in pop music so little comes from a sense of tradition; rather it is pre-packaged according to market research.

Relevance, says Culture Wars' conference co-director, Mark Ryan, "is a fraud that masks a profound disdain at the top of society for the *capacities of the average person to* go beyond their limited experience and grapple with what is difficult and challenging...the new principle of judgement is no longer whether *something provokes the imagination* and intellect, but whether it is relevant, accessible and inclusive."

And from children's literature to grand opera, anecdotal evidence is supported by observation and informed comment: evidence that builds up a *picture of a public not yet* dumbed down, but certainly let down by the suppliers of culture.

So there is a need for vigilance; there is a need to see concern over dumbing down not as pompous or reactionary, but as being at the cutting edge.

Getting dumber as a nation? Clockwise from top left: 'Pride and Prejudice'; Vanessa Mae; South Park; Monet at the RA

HOW DUMB ARE WE?

"The dumbing down debate has become polarised between two extremes. On the one hand we have the old farts who seem genuinely fearful of ordinary people, on the other we have this *emerging argument for* relevance and accessibility, championed as being 'for the people'... If you criticise this gesture of egalitarianism, you're seen as being anti-people... Nowadays, anyone who utters this phrase 'dumbing down' is considered anti-democratic."
Claire Fox, director of Culture Wars, publisher of *LM Magazine)*

"There is a political issue at stake here, which is that there is a drive towards popularisation which, rather than making the best available to all, panders to our assumed inability to appreciate really good things."
Peter Ainsworth, Shadow Culture Secretary

The speakers are contributing to a conference, Culture Wars, Dumbing Down, Wising Up? at the Riverside Studios, London W8, 5-7 March

The joy of 20:20 hindsight

PARK LIFE

BRUCE MILLAR

I'M NOT sure if it is the effect of TV action replays, but my son Darcy likes to re-enact scenes from his football games not just later, in case I wasn't there, *but immediately*, while the game is still in full flow. "Dad, did you see the way I flew through the air to tackle Danny?" he says, launching himself into the air to tackle Danny once again. Not only was I there, I was actually on the pitch: no mere spectator, but *the referee, following the action* at close quarters instead of from the touchline.

While Darcy acts out his replay, the game has continued around him. "You'd feel pretty stupid if your opponents scored while you were in slow motion," I tell him to little effect. The *pitch is his stage: the compulsion* to milk every ounce from an incident cannot be resisted.

Perhaps subconsciously Darcy is polishing the incident *in order to fix it in his memory* bank, the better to summon it later when he is lying in bed, or staring out of the window during a dull lesson at school. I still find myself downloading the highlights of a game of football or squash I have played that day as I drift off to sleep. As a consequence I possess a mental library full of snapshots from my sporting life at all ages, sharper, better focused and more highly coloured then my impressionistic memories of people or places, let alone the blank sheets where, for instance, the entire science curriculum *from my school years* should be stored.

Some of the sports action found here seems so banal that it is impossible to work out why it struck me at the time: *In one* clip filed away when I was eight – Darcy's age today – I run across the pitch to intercept a ball before it reaches the opposing winger. Could this have been the first time I was able *to "read the game", as* commentators say? And if so, would I have recognised it then?

Other incidents are logged for more obvious reasons. A few years later, I caught the ball *with a left-footed volley* that was bound for the goal until a beefy boy from the year *above me* headed if off the line. He then *had to retire from the pitch* for 10 minutes nursing a headache, which almost made up for my disappointment at not scoring.

When ageing sports stars retire, they routinely tell the world: "I'll always have my *memories." But if you've spent* the best part of your life scoring breathtaking goals and serving aces, where do you start? David Gower's personal reel of his top 100 cricket shots must be a succession of perfectly timed, crisply executed drives and hooks, which soon *acquires the monotony of* watching match highlights.

I was never a contender, which makes the memory-editing process much easier – *there's so little* decent material to choose from, so even goals *tapped in from a couple of feet* get remembered from one season to the next. If I turn to the cricket file and call forth the selection of cover drives, there is *precisely one on offer* – which is why it is such a golden-hued memory, to be brought out and pored over at any opportunity.

It's a hot day in Australia, circa 1985, and the bowler pounds in to release a quickish ball to a good length just outside *my off stump. For once in my* undistinguished cricket career, everything goes according to the book: early backswing, foot forward, weight transferred with the shot, swing through the line of the ball which strikes the meat of the bat and accelerates away in a beautiful curve. I set *off for a run, but* ease back almost immediately in the certain knowledge *that it will* beat the fielders to the boundary.

What perfect joy – but why is it that my memories of sport are so straight-forwardly enjoyable? Other *memories, no* matter how happy, are tinged with *feelings of loss*, regret and transience: where is that person now, why aren't I still lying on that idyllic beach, young and carefree? When I recall golden moments from my sporting life, by contrast, it is enough that *for a split second* I knew what it was like to hit the perfect backhand volley.

So my advice to Darcy is: store up your sporting memories *by all means, you may* need them. But wait till the game's over.

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Life in the bus lane

'Take the National Express/ When your life is in a mess', as the song says. That's what **Andrew Mueller** did, and in doing so discovered the strange, bottom-numbing world of the coach-travelling classes of Great Britain

You may be approached," booms the public address system, "by someone asking to borrow money, with a promise of repayment at your destination. You are unlikely to see your money again."

Tuesday morning at Victoria coach station, which seems an unlikely venue for the perpetration of fraud – rightly or wrongly, it is axiomatic that inter-city buses are the transport of choice for the elderly, the undergraduate, the working class and the generally not sufficiently wealthy to afford train tickets. Perhaps National Express, aware of this image problem, are broadcasting bogus warnings to reassure we impecunious embarkees that there's always someone worse off.

Right now, in this cold waiting room, on this plastic seat between a sleeping student and a crisp-chewing pensioner who smells overwhelmingly of tea, I am not convinced. I am eight and a half hours from Penzance, which sounds like a bad idea for a country song, and a worse way to spend a day.

In February, the Northern Irish pop group, The Divine Comedy, had a Top 10 hit with a song called "National Express". It was a catchy, if somewhat oddly mean-spirited, number that castigated the customers and staff of Britain's coaches as sinister, malformed proles. "Take the National Express when your life's in a mess," it jauntily advised. "It'll make you smile."

Almost infamously, the second verse of "National Express" muses on the on-board hostess, who "will supply you with drinks, and theatrical winks, for a sky-high fee", and who, according to Divine Comedy songwriter, Neil Hannon, possesses an "arse the size of a small country".

The song was, in short, advocating coach travel as self-affirming class tourism, a cheap holiday in someone else's squalor.

"There is an image perception, yeah," admits Bryan Bannister, Marketing Support Manager at the Birmingham headquarters of National Express. And he does not dispute the assertion that coach travel, as a means of getting from one place to another, is generally held to be only slightly more agreeable than being dragged behind a bolting quarter-horse.

"But I think," he argues, "that those perceptions are outdated – we still get people saying they don't want to sit above the wheel arch, for example, and our buses don't have wheel arches."

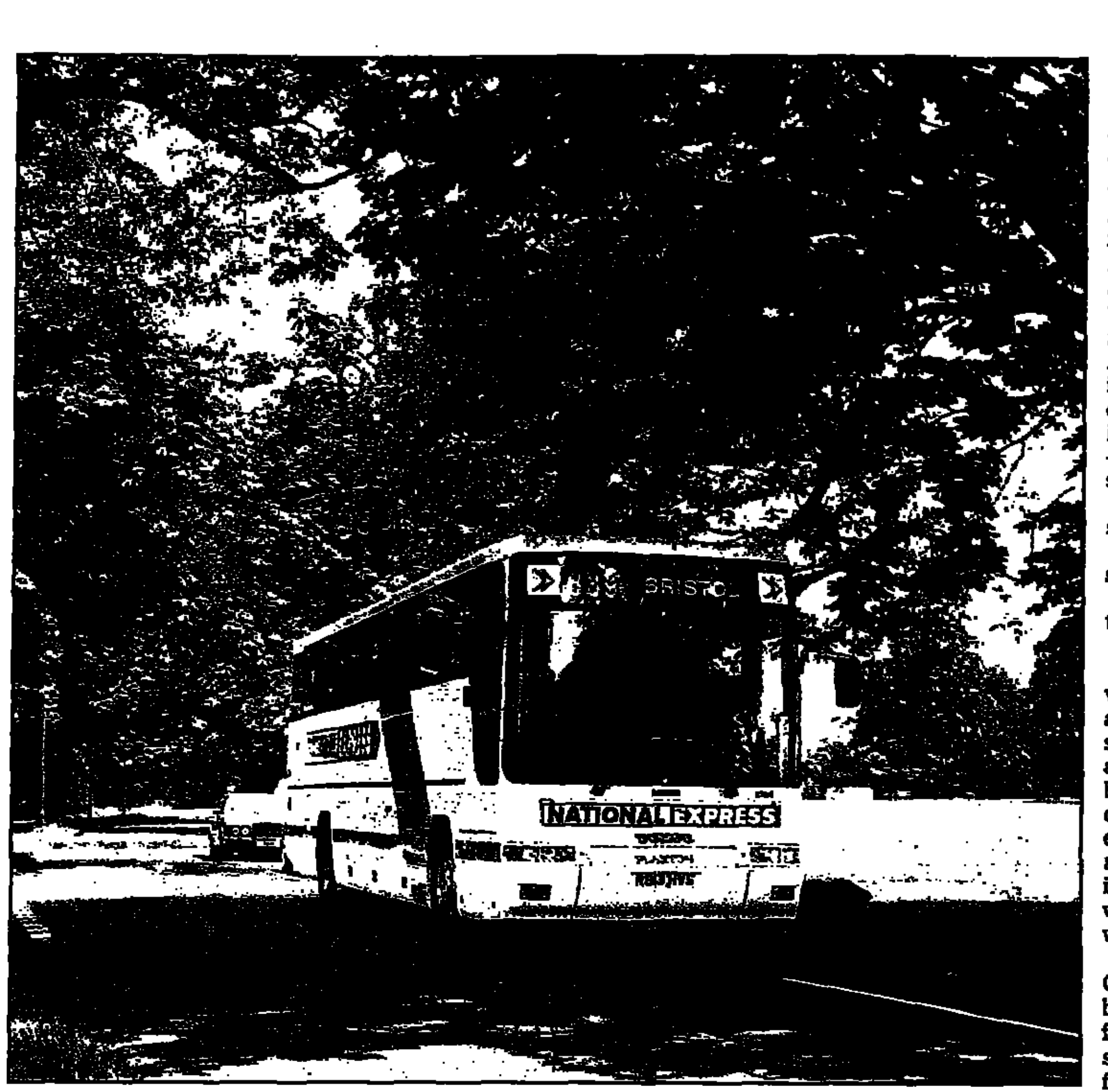
Last week, National Express tried to change its "outdated" image, giving the snappier name FlightLink to their routes that connect provincial centres to Heathrow and Gatwick, and in the West Midlands, National Express are giving £30m to local authorities to improve their roads, and the service of National Express with them.

Which is a fat lot of use to me. I'm going to Penzance.

National Express buses do not offer reserved seating. This means that you have to climb aboard as fast as you decently can to pick your spot, before setting about the even more crucial task of making the seat next to you look as unappealing to strangers as possible. Bus seats are small and not even separated by armrests, and most of us are usually fairly fussy about who we are willing to spend eight and a half hours that close to – there are circumstances in which this is not the case, but National Express won't let you drink.

The methods most certain to ensure that you get two seats to yourself can be difficult to organise: swathing yourself in bandilleros and solemnly muttering excerpts from "The Song Of Hiawatha"; having the word "Beer" tattooed across your forehead; and being the Reverend Ian Paisley. There are others which are theoretically easier, but necessitate a lack of self-consciousness rare in people who are allowed out under their own cognisance: pulling your shirt over your head and shrieking; bouncing up and down on the spot; or drooling.

Like most seasoned travellers, I settle for putting my bag and coat on the aisle seat next to me, arranging my frame so I look taller than I actually am, and cultivating an air of unapproachability. A Walkman can also help.



As far as we know, no incidence of Bus Rage has yet been recorded *National Express*

When we leave Victoria, the bus isn't even a quarter full, so there's plenty of room for everyone. At this stage, things are less grim than I expected. The bus is a double-decker, with most of the seats upstairs, and is every bit as smooth as a train and much more quiet. To the eternal credit of National Express, they do not inflict radio or video upon their passengers, allowing you to bring your own amusement (within reason – I suspect they'd frown on fighting cocks).

A significant indicator of the divide between rail and bus travellers is immediately apparent: while rail journeys are invariably rendered intolerable by sweaty little men in ill-fitting suits wittering self-importantly to someone back in the office about whichever conference on bathroom supplies or double glazing they've just attended, there is not a single mobile phone on this bus.

More passengers join at Heathrow, all radiant with package-holiday sunburn. As we leave, the hostess downstairs switches on her microphone and introduces herself and the driver. She has a Scottish accent and giggles a lot. She promises hot drinks, soup and sandwiches, and advises that we can encourage our seats to recline by manipulating a lever down one side of them. The man in front of me tries this. For a brief, agonising moment, I think I will never walk again. He recoils at my pained yelp, apologises, and returns his seat to the upright position. The coffee, when it comes, costs 60 pence, and is no better and no worse than might be expected.

Out on the rainswept motorways, the communal, torpid silence of long-haul travel descends. The mind wanders. I wonder why the otherwise unremarkable old man sitting opposite has such long thumbnails. I marvel at the catastrophic taste of my erstwhile adversary in front of me, who listens to his Walkman at sufficient volume for me to discern that he is alternating the Steps album with the greatest hits of Men At Work. I allow myself to be lulled into a sort of semi-trance by the elderly couple behind, who hiss irritably at each other for 37 minutes – I time them – about some jam and some trousers.

"I told you this would happen," she says.

"I didn't do it on purpose," he sighs in reply.

"This always happens," she continues. "I told you it would."

"It'll wash out," he says.

There is no further incident until we reach Plymouth. Here, there is an exchange of views between the stewardess and a new passenger about some hot food they have brought on board, apparently in contravention of the rules. My excitement at the prospect of being an eyewitness to the first recorded instance of Bus Rage is extinguished when the passenger retreats outside with her controversial pastie.

It's once we get properly into Cornwall that the advantages of bus travel over rail properly manifest themselves. Though the bus is slower (Paddington to Penzance is five and a half hours on the train), and only cheaper if you haven't booked in advance (this trip is costing me £36 return – Apex rail fares start at £27.50, but rise to £61.30 depending on what day of the week it is), the National Express offers a certain depth of experience that you can't get on the train.

On a train, you are a spectator, the places you pass through a blurred backdrop that barely registers. On a bus, you see details: the war memorials in small towns, mourning the generations whose loss, perhaps, has condemned these towns to stay small for ever; the bizarrely disproportionate number of Laserquest shoot-out arcades that Cornwall boasts, which can only lead one to wonder if a nascent Cornish Liberation Army is up to something; the two shops in Liskeard whose names recall a Britain long-lost to Londoners ("Royal Fish & Chips" and "Empire Fruit"); the street on the outskirts of Redruth called South Park; the lifeboat turned into a vast wooden flowerpot on the approach to St Ives; the satisfyingly absurd signs pointing to villages hidden down sideroads.

One of these says:

PILLATON
BLUNTS
QUETHIOCK

Which sounds like a 1930s Preston North End forward line.

Another reads:

HATT
BOTUSFLEMING
ST MELLION

Which might be an out-take from Rowan Atkinson's roll-call sketch.

In Penzance, it rains and everything is closed. I get the impression that neither is unusual. On the way back to London the following day, we are detained for some time by a traffic jam in Camborne, and there can't be many who can say that.

I wonder, idly, if the hold-up is due to some quaint local peculiarity – a villager with a red flag walking in front of the horseless carriages, perhaps, or a witch-burning, but it turns out to be a disappointingly prosaic, broken-down Vauxhall.

The bus is not the most romantic forms of transport – while trains, boats and aeroplanes have been lyrically celebrated in epic film and classic tune, the humble coach has had to make do with "Summer Holiday" and The Divine Comedy's strange and sour little song. It deserves better.

The great 19th-century American writer and lexicographer, Ambrose Bierce, who may or may not have ever travelled by bus between London and Penzance, once described the road as "A strip of land along which one may pass from where it is tiresome to be to where it is futile to go". He neglected to observe that along that road lies a surreal little universe of neglected detail, and that there is no better way to observe it than from the window of a bus.

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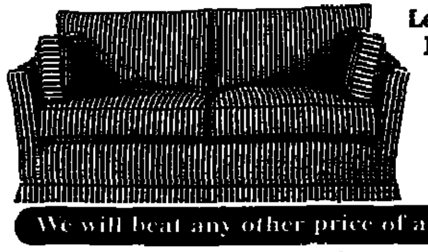

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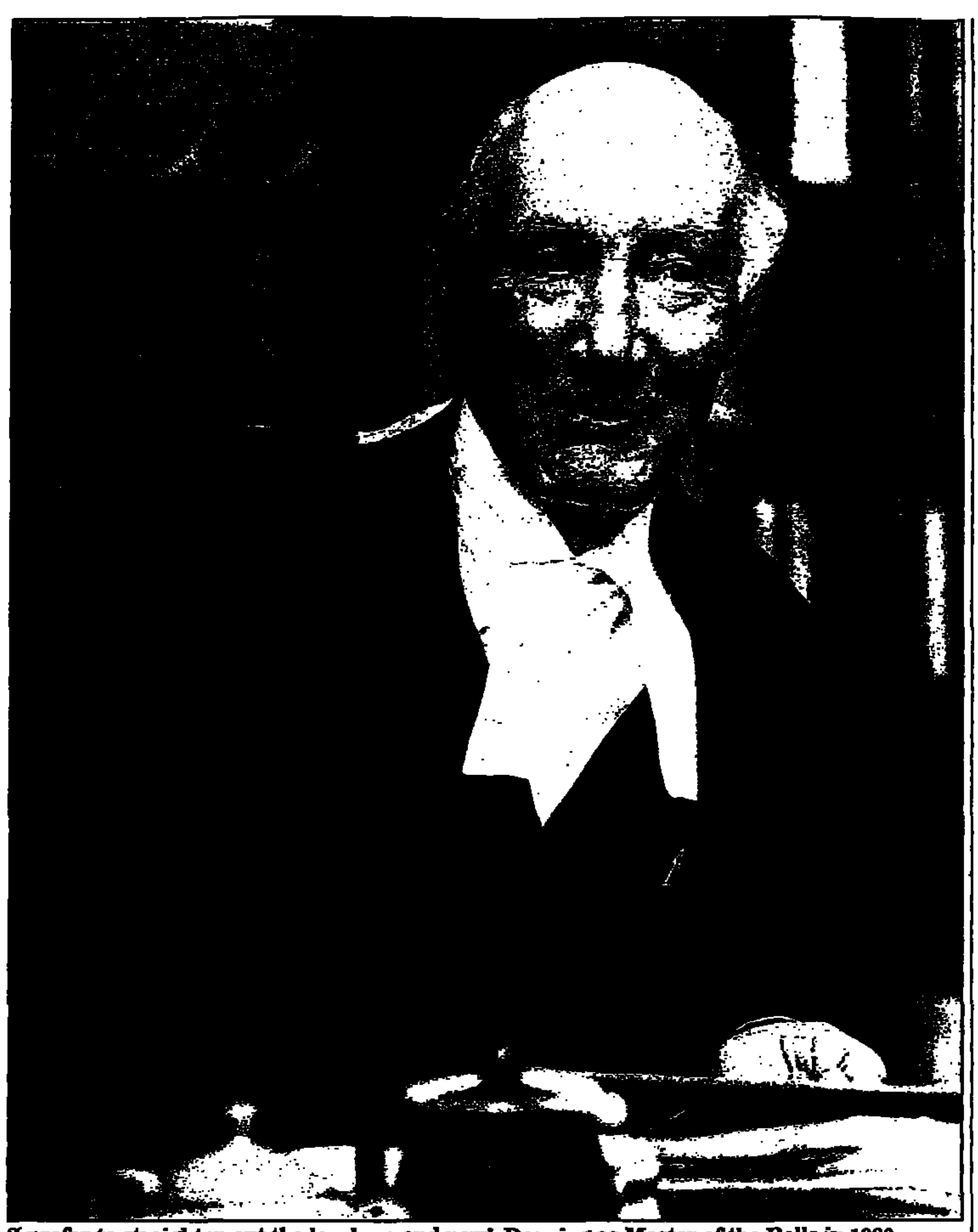
Lord Denning


'I prefer to straighten out the law here and now': Denning as Master of the Rolls in 1980

LORD DENNING was one of the greatest judges of the 20th century. His name will always be associated with doing justice to the parties before him, come what may. He was a judge for 38 years and had time to leave his imprint on the law of the post-war period.

A judge is always concerned with priorities. In a difficult case there are a number of competing principles which have to be weighed and one preferred to another. Denning put justice first and precedent came lower down in the scale of importance. Justice was achieved by applying the principles of equity, where necessary, and adapting the law to modern conditions. His attitude to the law was positive and he exercised all the powers of a judge to do right.

Denning had great learning, which enabled him to skirt round awkward precedents with skill and ingenuity and produce a result which accorded with morality and natural justice. He believed that people will not be disposed to obey the law unless they are convinced that it is, on the whole, just and justly applied. To convince, it was necessary to explain, and he was renowned for his clarity of expression: simple words and short sentences. His style was lively and entertaining and he was a storyteller. Simplicity and clarity of language made the law more accessible to the layman. He saw the danger of treating logic as the only basis for law.

Born at Whitchurch, Hampshire, in 1899, the son of Charles and Clara Denning, he was baptised Alfred Thompson Denning, but was always known as Tom. There were five boys in the family and one girl. Two talented brothers were lost in the First World War and, of the survivors, one became a Lieutenant-General in the Army and another a Vice-Admiral in the Navy.

Denning was educated at Andover Grammar School and Magdalen College, Oxford. His education was interrupted by service as a subaltern in the Royal Engineers in the First World War. He saw active service in France, holding a sector not far from Albert, and later taking part in the final advance when Sappers built bridges over the rivers.

Returning to Magdalen in 1919, he took a First in the Mathematical School in 1920. After a short spell teaching mathematics at Winchester College, he returned to Magdalen in 1921 to study for the Final Honours School of Jurisprudence. He obtained first class honours in 1922. He was awarded the Eldon Scholarship and later the Prize Studentship of the Bar at the Bar examination in May 1923. He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn that June and started practice in commercial chambers in the Middle Temple. He gained a substantial practice as a common law junior and took silk in 1938.

Denning was appointed a judge of the High Court in March 1944 and was assigned to the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division. He was transferred to the King's Bench Division in 1945, was a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1948 to 1957, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary from 1957 to 1962 and back again in the Court of Appeal as Master of the Rolls from 1962 to 1982.

In June 1946 he was called on by the Lord Chancellor to chair the first of many departmental committees upon which he served. Owing to wartime separation there was a flood of petitions for divorce and Denning and his committee made a number of suggestions to improve the practice of the divorce court. The committee met at 4.30pm after the courts had risen and by February 1947 had made their report. The committee worked swiftly and without fuss and the report met with general approval.

Soon after his transfer to the King's Bench Division, Denning was nominated as the judge to hear Pension Appeals. He much enjoyed this as there was no appeal from his decisions and he could do what he thought to be right. The minister had put upon the applicant the burden of proving that his injury or illness was due to his war service. Many ordinary people could not do this and lost their right to a pension. Denning, finding justification in a recent Statutory Instrument, changed the burden of proof. He held that if a man was fit when he joined up and unfit when he came out, the burden was on the minister to prove that the injury or illness was not due to war service. The British Legion wrote to him that "by his penetrating investigation and clear exposition he had won their entire confidence". This is a good example of Denning's concern for the little man.

Denning did all in his power to establish what is called "the deserted wife's equity". In 1947 a husband who had deserted his wife took proceedings to recover possession of the house, which the husband owned, but was occupied by his wife and invalid son. Denning invoked the provisions of section 17 of the Married Women's Property Act 1882 which said that in the absence of a marriage settlement a judge could divide the property of husband and wife fairly between them. This was one of the subjects of contention between Denning and the House of Lords. The House of Lords could not bring itself to believe that the 1882 Act meant what it said and in 1970 Parliament had to pass the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act 1970 which repeated what it had said in 1882.

Denning was constantly at odds with the House of Lords on a number of subjects: the construction of wills, statutes and contracts; trade unions; and above all the use of precedent. In some cases relating to the abuse of power by ministers, Denning and the House saw eye to eye. On tax evasion, in the early years there were differences, but by the 1970s the House, with a different composition, came round to Denning's point of view, that the Court must look at the reality of the situation and strike it down if it is a sham. Many of Denning's judgments stirred Parliament to put right the wrongs pointed out by him. For instance, his judgments in the 1970s relating to trade unions formed the basis of new legislation.

Right from the beginning Denning tried to restate the law. Lord Devlin, commenting on one of Denning's early cases, said: "Denning, as a very recent puisne, preferred to cut a new channel from the main stream." Denning once said: "I prefer to straighten out the law here and now." He was eager to use the judicial power to do this and thought that the House of Lords was the place where this could and should be done. He spent five years in the House of Lords but failed to bring the other members of the House to his way of thinking.

> *Denning believed that people will not be disposed to obey the law unless they are convinced that it is, on the whole, just and justly applied. To convince, it was necessary to explain*

Denning gave more lectures and addresses than any judge has ever given. It all started in 1949 when he was invited to deliver the first Hamlyn Lecture. After this he was in constant demand to speak to universities and other bodies. From 1954 this demand spread overseas. He played a large part in bringing together people of all races and cultures and was once described as an "Ambassador-at-Large for the common law".

Until 1977 he travelled tirelessly during the law vacations to all parts of the world lecturing and addressing conferences. He was popular with students and the young and had the unusual distinction for a judge of being the inspiration for a variety of T-shirts emblazoned with words such as "Equity – Denning". He took a particular interest in the education of students in Africa and in 1960 was chairman of a committee on legal education in that country. He was revered overseas and it has been said that in most Commonwealth countries he was regarded as the greatest legal luminary of the century.

Denning's most important inquiry related to the circumstances of the resignation of John Profumo, Secretary of State for War, in 1963. The object of the inquiry was to investigate the rumours about corruption in high places. Denning sat at a long polished table at the Treasury building, flanked by two secretaries and assisted by two shorthand writers. The witnesses entered through the rear passages of the Treasury and were interviewed by Denning who had to act as judge, prosecutor and investigator. The inquiry started work in June 1963 and the report was issued in September. The Denning Report proved a best-seller and over 100,000 copies were sold in the first three days after publication. Queues formed up outside the Stationery Office. It has been described as "the raciest and most readable Blue Book ever published", and made Denning's name known to a wide public.

In 1979 Denning wrote a book, *The Discipline of Law*, which gave his views on many legal questions and was the start of a long stream of books. The book of the most general interest was entitled *The Family Story* and told the tale of the remarkable Denning family. In 1982 he wrote a book, *What Next in the Law*, which was to prove his downfall. In it were some unguarded remarks on picking a jury in a recent case. The passage was interpreted as if Denning was actuated by racial prejudice and two of the black jurors in the case sent letters to Denning and his publishers threatening legal proceedings. Denning was 83 years of age and thinking of retiring soon but the threat of legal proceedings precipitated this retirement. The action was settled and the offending phrases deleted.

Denning's valediction in the Lord Chief Justice's Court on 30 July 1982 was a memorable occasion. All seats were taken well before the appointed time and barristers in wig and gown were pushing unsuccessfully at the swing doors to get in. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, presided and said that it was given to few men to be a legend in their lifetime. He said that before the Second World War the common law had been in a period of quiescence but after it she had awoken from her slumbers and entered upon renewed creativity. He acknowledged the vast debt owed to Denning for his deep learning, powerful legal intellect and pungent English style. They would miss his passion for justice, his independence and quality of thought, his liberal mind, his geniality and unfailing courtesy to colleagues, to counsel and to litigants in person.

In retirement Denning said that he did not want to be idle. He was glad to be free to take part in political controversy which he could not do as a judge. He wanted to help with legislation in the House of Lords, particularly on social questions and law reform. Up to the spring of 1988 he spoke regularly in debates in the House of Lords on subjects that interested him. He was never long out of the news and frequently spoke on the radio and appeared on television. He took a great interest in affairs in Hampshire, particularly on rights of way and village schools.

In his 92nd year some unwise remarks to *The Spectator* caused controversy, when A.N. Wilson reported Denning's opinion that, if the death penalty had been in force when the Guildford Four were convicted, "they'd have probably hanged the right men", and that if the Birmingham Six had been hanged, "we shouldn't have all these campaigns to get them released". He said later that he had been quoted out of context.

Denning had a mild and unassuming manner and always retained his Hampshire burr. His outstanding characteristic was speed. He talked and moved quickly, took the point quickly and was a very quick worker. Many remarked what a tiger for work he was. He had a retentive memory and a good sense of humour, and was courteous to everyone. He loved his home and library at "The Lawn", Whitchurch, and was particularly fond of his trees. Above all he was devoted to his wife and family and to the pleasures of family life. He was twice married, first to Mary Harvey, who died in 1941 leaving him with a son, Robert, aged three years at that time. Robert later became a Fellow of Denning's old Oxford college, Magdalen. In 1945 Denning married Joan Stuart, who had two daughters and a son. She died in 1992.

EDMUND HEWARD

Alfred Thompson Denning, judge: born Whitchurch, Hampshire 23 January 1899; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn 1923; KC 1938; Kt 1944; Judge of the High Court of Justice 1944-48; PC 1948; a Lord Justice of Appeal 1948-57; created 1957 Baron Denning; a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary 1957-62; Master of the Rolls 1962-82; Chairman, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1962-82; OM 1997; married 1932 Mary Harvey (died 1941; one son), 1945 Joan Stuart (née Elliott Taylor, died 1992; one stepson, two stepdaughters); died Winchester, Hampshire 5 March 1999.

Professor Arnold Bender

ARNOLD BENDER was a giant in the field of food science and nutrition. He made important contributions to these subjects not only in the basic science but also by building bridges between the two disciplines, between academia and the food industry, bench science and its practical application, scientific research and public understanding.

He was a man of encyclopaedic knowledge, renowned for his rapid recall and his humorous anecdotes. His unassuming authority, and energy, brought him international recognition. He reached the age of 80 last summer and although having been officially retired for 15 years he remained as active, sprightly and physically unchanged as he was at the age of 40, until the last few months when cancer pulled him down.

Bender's final post before retirement in 1983 was as Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics and Head of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College, London University (which two years later merged with King's College London). He had been appointed as Senior Lecturer in 1965 by the then Head of Department, Professor John Yudkin, who, having established the first BSc course in Nutrition in Europe there, had been asked to set up another degree in Food Science. Yudkin agreed to do so if he could appoint two senior staff; Arnold Bender and Ian Morton were recruited.

Bender was a born teacher, able to talk fluently and authoritatively off the cuff on a wide variety of topics. Facts were enlivened by amusing snippets, some gleaned from his collection of student exam blunders, the "June Gems". Coming from a background of academic and food industry research, he was in a strong position to link food science with nutrition.

He was born in 1918, and educated at Liverpool Institute High School. His first degrees were in Chemistry and Biochemistry from Liverpool University which he completed – both at first class level – just before the outbreak of the Second World War. During the war he was research chemist with British Drug Houses, working on vitamin A, the stability of fats and the production of antibiotics. He then moved to Sheffield for doctoral work as a Nuffield Research Fellow on the biological effects of X-radiation before being employed as Assistant Lecturer in Biochemistry in the department of the Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Hans Krebs, with whom he collaborated on amino acid metabolism. This work led him into the field of protein nutrition which was a main topic of his subsequent research.

Over the 15 years 1949-64 Bender worked on protein nutrition research in the food industry. This was the period when it was estimated internationally that a significant cause of malnutrition world-wide was protein deficiency partly due to a lack of supplies. He worked first as head of the Nutrition Team in Crookes Laboratories studying problems of protein nutrition and protein sources.

This work culminated in the development, with his colleague Derek Miller (also later appointed to Queen Elizabeth College), of the "Net Protein Utilisation" method of assaying the nutritive value of proteins, which became accepted as the Bender-Miller method. It was so widely used and cited in the scientific literature that it became a "citation classic". Although Miller responded to this accolade by noting that the premiss of a world-wide protein deficiency was later refuted, the method and the associated research was important in the understanding of protein requirements and their relationship to energy or total food requirements.

In 1954 Bender moved to Bovril, where he was head of the Research Department and continued work on protein nutrition, partly with United Nations agencies, and on the amino acid composition of several proteins including meat extracts. From 1961 he was head of Research and Development at Farley's Infant Foods, where he used his knowledge of protein composition in the development of new products for infant feeding.

His expertise in protein nutrition and food toxicology led to appointments on many influential national and European committees such as the Agricultural Research Council Committee on the Protein Quality Evaluation (1955-66); the Department of Health and Social Security Working Party on Protein Requirements (1963); the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food committees on Dietetic Foods, Composition of Foods, Irradiated and Novel Foods, and Naturally Occurring Toxic Substances in Food; and the European Committee for Co-operation in Science and Technology (1980-83).

He was also influential in the building of professional institutions through membership of the council of several learned bodies including the British Nutrition Society, Society of Chemical Industry, Royal Society of Health, and the Institute of Food Science and Technology, of which he was a founding member in 1962. The institute was established to provide a professional body for graduates in these subjects and has been effective in reinforcing the application of science to food. He later became President, and Vice-President, of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFST).

Bender published many academic papers and books including the classic *Food Processing and Nutrition* (1978), *Food Labelling* (1991), *Dictionary of Food and Nutrition* (1995), *Meat and Meat Products in Developing Countries* (1992) and *Nutrition, a Reference Handbook* (1997) amongst others. He had the ability, rare amongst academics, to popularise sound science in an emotively charged topic – through such books as *Health or Hoax?: the truth about health food and diet* (1985).

He also collaborated on several books with his son David, who followed in his father's footsteps as a nutritional biochemist at University College London. (His other son, Brian, is also a scientist, with the Cabinet Office.) In *Nutrition for Medical Students* (1982), for example, they address a vexing problem that exists in many developed countries: while most of the population may consider the medical profession to be a reliable source of nutrition information, the subject occupies a small place in the medical curriculum.

Following Arnold Bender's wishes there will be no funeral. He will continue to teach, as he did through most of his life, by donating his body to science.

Bender: health or hoax? *Institute of Food Science and Technology*

CATHERINE GEISSLER

Arnold Eric Bender, nutritionist: born 24 July 1918; Research Fellow, National Institute of Radiotherapy, Sheffield 1945-47; Lecturer, Sheffield University 1947-49; Senior Lecturer in Nutrition, Queen Elizabeth College, London University 1965-71, Professor of Nutrition 1971-78, Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics, and Head of Department of Food Science and Nutrition 1978-83 (Emeritus); married 1941 Deborah Swift (two sons); died Fetcham, Surrey 21 February 1999.

Professor Ronald Willetts

Bronze head-vase from the Idaian cave: illustration from Willetts's *The Civilization of Ancient Crete* (Batsford, 1977)

RONALD WILLETTS was a Greek scholar and lecturer at Birmingham University for nearly 40 years, specialising in Cretan studies. His scholarship was largely concerned with social conditions and customs. Beginning with his *Aristocratic Society in Ancient Crete* (1955), he went on to produce several monographs covering other aspects of Cretan life including *Everyday Life in Ancient Crete* (1969) and *The Civilization of Ancient Crete* (1977).

Although he had an acute ear and a great grasp of grammar and language, Willetts did not consider himself to be a textual critic of the traditional kind, though he did contribute various textual and other items to the classical periodicals, many of which were reprinted in *Selected Papers* in 1988. He did, however, show his textual skills in what is probably his most important work of scholarship, his definitive edition with commentary of *The Law Code of Gortyn* (1967).

He was born in 1915 in Halesowen, Worcestershire. His first instruction in the Classics was at Halesowen Grammar School, from where he went to read Classics at Birmingham University, graduating with a first in 1937. He studied for his MA in 1938, then took a Diploma in Education in 1939, followed by a year as a schoolmaster. From 1940 to 1946 he was on war service, and it was while he was in India that he met and married his wife Jane Vann, who became a strong influence and support throughout his life. He returned to join the Department of Greek at Birmingham in 1946, and remained there until his retirement, as professor and head of department, in 1981.

It is difficult at this distance to appreciate the artistic and intellectual ferment of the Faculty of Arts at Birmingham in the 1930s. Louis MacNeice, Henry Reed, W.H. Auden, Walter Allen and the other members of the "Birmingham Group" were around and very active; Sargent Florence's sumptuous house was open to all with something to contribute to the discussions. All of this Willetts absorbed; it was at this time that he began to write and develop his own distinctive poetry.

In his Greek studies he came under the influence of E.R. Dodds, who has himself written movingly about this time. Dodds moved to Oxford in 1936, and his chair was taken by George Thomson, who was to become another great influence on Willetts's scholarship and thinking. Their contact then was brief, but long enough for Thomson to recognise the young Willetts's ability. And so, after war service, Willetts joined the department as a lecturer, and entered another unusual period.

At this point, the ex-servicemen and women were coming into universities with several years of wartime experiences of many kinds. Those who were there in the late Forties still testify that it was like no other entry of students and staff. For the Greek students especially the whole of the *Odyssey* had a new meaning; we too, Willetts and his students, had "seen the cities of many peoples and learned their ways"; like Odysseus, we knew what it was to long for the sight of the smoke arising from our own land.

Willetts shared a similar world view with his departmental head, and was in full agreement with Thomson's introduction of a preliminary year of Greek, for those classics students who had learned no Greek at school; already in those days the number who had studied the language before university was rapidly declining.

Willetts was not a natural administrator (if there be such a being): indeed he could become impatient of tasks which took him from teaching and writing. Towards the end of his career he inevitably became increasingly involved in university government, being chairman of his department for six years, and a governor of the university from 1967. He was also Public Orator for five years to his retirement: a role which he took seriously; he spent much time and effort gathering facts and polishing the text of his speeches. By this time, he felt that his contribution to Cretan studies was complete, and so the chores of administration were perhaps not so distasteful.

The poetical side of his output did not decline with his increased duties, and he wrote steadily, producing a series of volumes from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. It must, in a way, have been a disappointment to Willetts that few of his students made a great mark in classical studies; but we remember with great affection his enthusiastic teaching, and the love of the literature which he gave us; and, perhaps a little shamefacedly, we have to admit that from time to time we relished drawing from him his pithy and witty comments on other members of staff.

TONY NICHOLLS

Ronald Frederick Willetts, Greek scholar: born Halesowen, Worcestershire 3 April 1915; Lecturer in Greek, Birmingham University 1946-58, Senior Lecturer 1958-63, Reader 1963-70, Professor 1970-81 (Emeritus), Chairman of Department 1975-81, Governor 1967-81, Public Orator 1975-80; married 1945 Jane Vann (one daughter); died Birmingham 19 February 1999.

هكذا من الاهمال

Horace Tapscott

NEW YORK jazz musicians will often cite the balmy climate of California as a reason for not living there, regarding it as destructive of any creative musical urge. The musical rebels are most usually found in the poorer parts of New York or Chicago. Horace Tapscott, along with the more eminent Charlie Mingus, Eric Dolphy and Dexter Gordon, was an exception, and spent all his most productive years, 38 of them, in Los Angeles. He was also responsible for teaching what black innovators there were in the city and nourished the talents of Arthur Blythe, James Newton, David Murray and Azar Lawrence, all creative players who became far better known than Tapscott himself.

He was not so much a musical anarchist as one who simply chose to use his own system. He was a significant figure within the black community of Los Angeles, and the various orchestras he led became rallying points for the city's young musicians. The two best known of his groups were the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra and the Union of God's Musicians and Artists Ascension Foundation (Ugmaa).

These were not names that would fit easily on a record label, and that is perhaps a reason why his groups made so few recordings. The Ugmaa was also used as a second name for the Underground Musicians' Union, a secondary creation of Tapscott's.

The race riots in Watts of 1965 were a seminal part of the history of the civil rights movement. Watts is a mainly black suburb of Los Angeles. Tapscott took the Arkestra to play during the disturbances. "Kids were dancing in the streets while the Arkestra played inside," he said. "That is until the police found it necessary to pour in through the doors and at gunpoint order 30 dancers and musicians to stop playing." Tapscott took the Arkestra out into the riots, playing on the backs of lorries. When things calmed down Tapscott was given some state and federal funding, and the Arkestra began to play weekly, mainly in churches and universities.

Tapscott was born in Houston and taken by his mother, Mary Lou Malone, to Los Angeles in 1945 when he was nine. Malone was a stride pianist and tuba player. The family lived near to the local black musicians' union building (Los Angeles musicians' unions were segregated until 1953), and as a teenager Tapscott met some of the most distinguished instrumentalists of the area. "Gerald Wilson and Melba Liston" (internationally famous jazz players and composers) "acquainted me with the fact that I had to study to be something other than a kid wandering the streets with my horn."

The music being played in the clubs on the city's Central Avenue at that time was to become the stuff of legend, although the history of West Coast jazz pays scant regard to the music of the black musicians. The two best books on the subject, with 650 pages between them, concentrate on the lionised Gerry Mulligan and Shorty Rogers, both of whom, like many of their West Coast colleagues, were born in the East. Neither book mentions Tapscott.

Tapscott took up the trombone and when he was called up in 1952 joined the Air Force Band, where he found several colleagues of future note like Houston Person and Billy James. "All I had to do was write and perform with the orchestra. It allowed me to develop because I had a forum for my ideas, top-quality people carry them out, and time, because we were often snowed in."

While in the air force he studied the piano. On his release in 1959 he joined Lionel Hampton's band. "I was dissatisfied with the experience because it was a sort of machine-like existence. When we got back to Hollywood I got off the bus and stayed home."

His piano studies were to prove invaluable. He was driving to a job shortly after he left Hampton in 1961 when he was involved in an accident. He got to the job but had to play his trombone with a split lip, several missing teeth and with a residue of tarmac stuck into his gums. He had to give up the horn and develop his piano playing instead.

Tapscott also expanded his activities as a composer and produced several powerful works. But he was unable to attract the attention of the local media. "Most of the writers that were here expected to be wined and dined for their efforts on our behalf." He decided to do without their help and instead formed the Arkestra in 1961 to play his music.

> *'Kids were dancing in the streets while we played inside. That is until the police poured in and at gunpoint ordered 30 dancers and musicians to stop playing'*

"The reason we took our music to the schools, churches and the streets was because we couldn't dictate terms to the music centre or the record companies. We performed weekly for 10 years straight at the Emmanuel Church of Christ, where Reverend Edwards would feed and find employment for those who gathered."

The Arkestra did record, but not until 1978. Tapscott had led the band and written a very effective set of scores for an album by the alto saxophonist Sonny Criss in 1968. He then shared an album with two other bands in 1969, but it was with the 1978 album *Flight 17* that his recording career took substance.

He suffered a severe cerebral aneurysm in 1978 and was not fortified by the deaths of all four of the patients in his ward who had the same affliction. Afterwards he could move his fingers and he could play, but his other activities were restricted. "I spent a lot of time over the next three years staring out of the window at my avocado tree." The same year the Arkestra recorded *The Call* and performances over the next year by the Ugmaa Foundation made up a double album called *Live at the I.U.C.C.*

Tapscott: unorthodox harmonies *Michael Ochs / Redferns*

He formed his own record company, Nimbus, and recorded three more albums featuring him with small combinations in 1980 and 1981. He proved to be at his best when playing piano in his trio. Nimbus embarked on a series of seven solo piano albums recorded during 1982 and 1983. These were composed mainly of Tapscott's own obscure compositions and, although imaginative and consistent, the albums became repetitive and lacked excitement. His piano style used attractive and unorthodox harmonies, often dissonant in the manner of Thelonious Monk, and the time signatures he favoured were often similarly unusual. In 1989 he recorded *The Dark Tree* for the Hat Hut label and had another collection that year on Arabesque. His final recording, *Thoughts of Dar es Salaam*, was made in 1997.

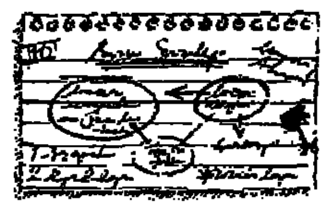
In the summer of 1991 he made a rare excursion to play in New York at the Village Vanguard with his childhood contemporary the saxophonist Arthur Blythe and with the drummer Andrew Cirille, both now well established in their own right. The trip was a success and many of the New York teachers sent their students to hear him. *The New York Times* carried an enthusiastic review.

"Playing with Arthur Blythe was beautiful. The magic that began 30 years ago continued unabated in spite of the time and space that has separated us." In 1993 the arrangements he had written for the Sonny Criss album were revived for the Chicago jazz festival, with Arthur Blythe playing Criss's role. Tapscott played a brief tour in Europe during 1995.

In his later years he said, "You have to hurrah when you get this far. Maybe you should get an award for surviving tactics. I just thank God for all the people who have been around me and enabled me to contribute to the changing image of jazz."

STEVE VOCE

Horace Tapscott, pianist, composer, trombonist and bandleader: born Houston, Texas 6 April 1934; married (nine children); died Los Angeles 27 February 1999.



CRIMINOLOGICAL NOTES

FRANCES SIMON

More to prison work than sewing mailbags

WORK IS good, we are told: we should all work if we possibly can. But what about people in prison? Should they work, and if so, why and at what?

Most people serving sentences in British prisons are required to work, and the last 200 years have seen a shifting variety of reasons. In the 1770s the reformer John Howard believed that work "of the hardest and most servile kind" promoted repentance for sin. Twenty years later the philosopher Jeremy Bentham envisaged his ideal "panopticon" prison as a profitable factory. Several times in the 19th century a crime wave was followed by official views that prisons were too soft; and, after the 1877 Prison Act brought them all under central government control, the work done by most prisoners was intended as mainly punitive and deterrent.

Sir Edmund Du Cane, chairman of the Prison Commission in the harsh closing decades of the Victorian era, wrote that the purposes of convict labour were deterrence, reform and – fortunately accompanying the first two, he said – helping to make the prisons self-supporting.

In the 20th century, as the treadwheel, crank and oakum picking vanished and prison conditions became more humane, sewing mailbags gradually gave way to other kinds of work, and increasing numbers of inmates received some vocational training. But every few decades have seen some kind of official inquiry into prisoners' work: what should it comprise, how should it be organised?

Nowadays prisons provide a great diversity of jobs. There are workshops for engineering, furniture making, desktop publishing and repairing wheelchairs, to name only a very few. But there are not enough of these. Nearly half the prisoners who work are occupied in unskilled tasks like cleaning just to keep the prison going, and they work for only a few hours a day. Others do routine unskilled assembly work of a kind that has almost disappeared from outside industry. As the outside working world has changed, the mismatch between prison jobs and labour markets outside has grown.

There is plenty of evidence that worthwhile employment is one of the biggest influences in helping discharged prisoners to avoid serious crime. Not all people leaving prison want a legitimate job but the majority do, and for the same reasons as the rest of us. They want not just a livelihood, but work giving self-respect, interest, a sense of achievement, of making things happen. Prison inmates too would like to get some of these satisfactions from their work but very often they do not, and their earnings average less than £8 a week. Vocational training courses in prisons have long waiting lists.

Prison staff and prisoners are confused as to the purposes of prisoners' work. In fact the Prison Service would like to provide more worthwhile jobs for inmates with training which looks forward to their future. But prison managers' efforts are hampered by the enormous pressure of having to house a prison population which in six years has shot up by 50 per cent. Work and training are disrupted as inmates are shunted around the system in the search for vacant spaces, and resources are diverted to preventing escapes.

This pressure springs from public attitudes: from the expectation that great numbers of offenders shall be locked up. Of course some must be, but the courts could deal with many others in less expensive ways. Then prison staff could spend time and resources on those who remained, providing positive programmes including work and training which would prepare them better for eventual inclusion in law-abiding society.

The Prison Service needs public support in its desire to do constructive work with prisoners, and ex-prisoners need support from the public, including employers, in trying to rebuild their lives. How much support are we willing to give?

Frances Simon is the author of 'Prisoners' Work and Vocational Training' (Routledge, 11 March, £16.99)

A shabby studio or a decent obscurity

FAITH & REASON

ANDREW BROWN

A televangelist on the board of Laura Ashley. And a brilliant scholar in an ordinary parish. This is a tale of two certainties

THIS YEAR'S most unlikely piece of religious news slipped through on the business pages: Pat Robertson, the American televangelist who ran for president in 1988, has joined the board of Laura Ashley. Yes, this is the same Pat Robertson who announced that the last hurricanes to hit Florida were God's righteous judgement on the city of Orlando for recognising gay partnerships. I can't wait to see how he gets on in the world of interior decoration.

Last week, a further announcement was made: that he would be joining the Bank of Scotland as an investor in a new telephone bank operating in the American Midwest. The two stories together highlight an astonishing fact about American conservative religion: that it is actually ahead of secular society in its marketing and sales techniques. Robertson was not born a poor man: his father was a state senator in Virginia; but his family had nothing like the sort of fortune required to make a run for president. He started his television empire with one shabby jury-rigged studio, and he sold part of it 20 years later to Rupert Murdoch for $200m.

It's possible the Holy Spirit was just looking after his own here; Mr Murdoch is after all a papal knight. But lowlier minds will point to Pat Robertson's great business innovations. The first of these was the telethon. He actually invented this now standard fund-raising trick, at a time when it was the only thing that could rescue his studio from bankruptcy. The second, which has been much more widely imitated, was the use of mailing lists, later computerised, to nourish a base of regular customers even in a business as impersonal as television preaching. His main chat show was called the 700 club after the number of regular large donors. This technique was and remains the basis of the political power of the religious right in America.

The basis of their financial alchemy is that they can turn putting a cheque into an envelope into a social, almost friendly transaction. It is a trick which all modern businesses have tried to learn from them. There is nothing that Richard Branson could teach Pat Robertson about personality-led marketing. Of course, Branson does not stud his television appearances with claims to be miraculously healing members of his audience or to be diverting, by the power of prayer, hurricanes from their course. Even so, I think it is the feeling of belonging which makes the difference, rather than the miracles which must always happen to third parties rather than to any particular customer.

The final innovation that Robertson pioneered also came about by accident. He was the first to discover that old films could be reshown on cable television to the delight of advertisers and the profit of the station owner. This was the basis of the economics of the Family Channel, which he sold for so much to Rupert Murdoch. He was thus the inventor of the Holy Grail of the modern media industry: delivering carefully targeted audiences to advertisers by using the cheapest possible content whose providers are, ideally, dead. He is one of the world's most influential Christian leaders.

All this may be hard to believe because we are so used in Britain to the idea of Christianity following trends rather than starting them. And the belief among Christians tends to be that, if only they could lead the world, instead of following it, all would be well.

The career of Pat Robertson provides one powerful counterargument to this. Another is supplied by the death of Canon William Vanstone, who died last week. After a career of staggering brilliance at Oxford and Cambridge, in which he picked up three first class degrees, and followed them with another in America, he spent his working life in the decent obscurity of the Anglican parish ministry on the nasty edges of unpleasant places like Manchester. Other, less talented, contemporaries rose to become Christian leaders. Vanstone did not want the jobs. "He had this conviction that bishops were either stupid or vain, and in some instances both," said one Cambridge friend, Robert Runcie.

As a priest, he was too busy to write. His contribution to ecclesiastical economics was to sell the vicarage furniture to patch the church roof. Eventually he retired to Chester, and there wrote three little books, *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*; *The Stature of Waiting*; and *Farewell in Christ*. Very occasionally, he would write for this column, Faith & Reason. He was not a terribly easy man to deal with: perhaps he would have written more if I had not been so frightened of ringing him up, but the combination of being extremely clever and extremely deaf made him hard work for someone as vague as I am on the telephone. No one I respect who knew him did not love him. "He had a gracious goodness and simplicity," says Runcie.

It's difficult to think of a figure more old-fashioned than such a scholar-priest. It's difficult to think of a greater affront to Birtist principles than that he should spend his gifts as he did. I doubt very much that as a parish priest he converted many people. But I'm not sure that a church is meant to be a model to business organisations. There's something to be said for making it a school for saints instead, and Bill Vanstone's life says it.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

JUDD: On 24 February 1999, to Caroline (née Fentem) and Thomas, a son, James Edward Thomas, a brother for Claire, Andrew and Helen.

MATHIE: Catherine Moody and Alistair Mathie are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Madeleine Rosemary, on 27 February 1999, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

NICHOLS: Rebecca Katherine, born 18 February 1999; a daughter to Peter and Rachael (née Warner), and a sister to Tom.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards. TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: **Dr Madge Adam**, astronomer, 87; **Lt-Gen Sir Norman Arthur**, Lord-Lieutenant, Dumfries and Galloway Region, 68; **Miss Jean Boht**, actress, 63; **Mr William Davis**, editor and publisher of *High Life*, 66; **Miss Kiki Dee**, rock singer, 52; **Lord Dixon**, former MP, 70; **Mr David Gilmour**, rock guitarist and singer, 55; **Mr Richard Giordano**, chairman, BG plc, 65; **Sir Alistair Grant**, chairman, Scottish & Newcastle plc, 62; **Professor David Hendry**, economist, 55; **Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenburg**, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 76; **Miss Judy Loe**, actress, 52; **Mr Lorin Maazel**, conductor, 69; **Sir Hal Miller**, former MP, 70; **Mr Malcolm Moss MP**, 56; **Mr John Noakes**, actor and television presenter, 65; **Mr Richard Noble**, world land speed record holder, 53; **Mr Peter Roebuck**, cricketer, 43; **Sir Ian Dixon Scott**, former ambassador, 90; **The Right Rev Lord Sheppard of Liverpool**, former Bishop of Liverpool, 70; **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa**, operatic soprano, 55; **Dr David Whitaker**, Director, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Trading Ltd, 68; **Miss Mary Wilson**, singer, 55; **Sir Oliver Wright**, former ambassador in Washington, 78.

TOMORROW: **Sir Robert Atkinson**, former chairman, British Shipbuilders, 83; **Mr William Boyd**, writer, 47; **Mr William Bromley-Davenport**, Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, 64; **Mr Michael Chance**, counter-tenor, 44; **Mr Malcolm Chisholm MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Scottish Office, 50; **Mr Gilbert Cooke**, former chairman, C.T. Bowring & Co, 76; **Mr Michael Finnissy**, composer and pianist, 53; **Mrs Deborah Forbes**, Headmistress, Queen Anne's School, Reading, 53; **Sir Kenneth Green**, Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, 65; **Sir Anthony Hidden**, High Court judge, 63; **Mr John Horam MP**, 60; **Mr Dan Jacobson**, novelist, 70; **Mr Nicholas Kraemer**, conductor, 54; **Sir Anthony Lambert**, former ambassador to Portugal, 88; **Sir John Latey**, former High Court judge, 85; **Mr Ivan Lendl**, tennis player, 39; **Sir Paul Nicholson**, Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, 61; **Lord Oliver of Aylmerton**, a former Lord Justice of Appeal in Ordinary, 78; **Professor Sir Eduardo Paolozzi**, sculptor, 75; **Mr Piers Paul Read**, novelist and writer, 58; **Mr Viv Richards**, cricketer, 47; **Mr Mark Rowland**, athlete, 36; **The Earl of Snowdon**, photographer, 69; **Sir David Spedding**, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, 56; **Sir Ranulph Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes**, explorer, 55; **Miss Zena Walker**, actress, 65; **Dame Margaret Weston**, former Director of the Science Museum, 73.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY
Births: Michelangelo (Michelagniolo Buonarroti), painter, sculptor and poet, 1475; Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, novelist and playwright, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, 1806; Frankie Howerd (Francis Alex Howard), comedian, 1922. **Deaths:** Francis Beaumont, playwright, 1616; Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed at the Alamo 1836; William Whewell, philosopher and writer, 1866; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, 1888; John Philip Sousa, bandmaster and composer, 1932; David Ivor Novello (Davies), composer and playwright, 1951; Donald Maclean, former diplomat and Soviet agent, 1983; Melina Mercouri (Amalia-Maria Mercouri), Greek minister of culture and former actress, 1994. **On this day:** Verdi's *La Traviata* was first performed, Venice 1853; British soldiers were granted the right to wear spectacles on or off duty, 1902; the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon was destroyed by fire, 1926; frozen food was first put on sale by the Birdseye company, 1930. **Today is the Feast Day of** Saints Balred and Bilfrid, St Cadroe, St Chrodegang of Metz, St Colette, Saints Cyneburga, Cyneswide and Tibba, St Cyril of Constantinople, St Fridolin, St Ollegarius or Oldegar and Saints Perpetua and Felicity.

TOMORROW
Births: Joseph Nicéphore Niepce, photographic inventor, 1765; Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, painter, 1802; Piet Mondriaan, painter, 1872; Joseph-Maurice Ravel, composer, 1875. **Deaths:** St Thomas Aquinas, Christian philosopher, 1274; Jean-Pierre François Blanchard, balloonist, 1809; Percy Wyndham Lewis, writer and artist, 1957; Florence Margaret (Stevie) Smith, poet, 1971. **On this day:** Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale", made her début, 1838; the first telephone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell, 1876; the Queen opened the Victoria underground line in London, 1969. **Tomorrow is** the Feast Day of St Ardo, St Drausius or Drausin, St Esterwine, St Paul the Simple and St Theophylact.

LECTURES

TODAY
British Museum: Joyce Filer, "Queens, Goddesses and Servant Women in Ancient Egypt", 2.30pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Dr Kate Flint, "Commodified Beauty: late-Victorian portraits of women", 3pm.

TOMORROW
Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twohig, "CommenTate on Damien Hirst's *Pharmacy*", 4pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Paul Webb, "Alfred, Lord Tennyson: a true Poet Laureate", 3pm.

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Poetry, for crying out loud

In forty years of recording and performing, English poets have discovered the power of reading aloud. By **Michael Glover**

Speaking for themselves: clockwise from top left, WH Auden, Philip Larkin, James Fenton and Stevie Smith

Good ideas, like plants, always have a vigorously cyclical life. Back in the mid-Sixties a man called Peter Orr, head of recorded sound at the British Council (a post that passed away peacefully with his retirement in 1978), produced, in collaboration with the Argo Recording Company, a series of long-playing records of poets reading their own work under the generic title of *The Poet Speaks*. About 100 poets were recorded, some at their homes to the accompaniment of desultory birdsong, others minding their Ps and Qs in more formal studio surroundings. Poems were read and, between the poems, poetry matters discussed: how the poems came into being; what it meant to be a poet, how much or how little, etc. etc.

These poets, by and large, were the Lambeg Drums of their time: Philip Larkin, Louis MacNeice, Stevie Smith, Hugh MacDiarmid, John Betjeman, Robert Graves, W H Auden. I own half of these records, which represents a cull of 42 such names. Forty of them are men.

Now, 30 years on, the British Council, in conjunction with the small-press publisher Bloodaxe Books, has just launched a new, updated version of the same idea, this time on cassette, under the title of *The Poetry Quartets*. Twelve poets read on the first three cassettes. Half of them are women. Even in the Sixties everyone was aware that women had lives. Now we can rejoice in the knowledge that they have voices, too.

The voicing of poetry was just coming into fashion at the beginning of the Sixties. Now it is commonplace – every night of the week there is a poetry reading in some under- or over-heated arts venue or other. Poets sell their books at readings, often more rapidly than from bookshops. They shamelessly test out new poems on their audiences, probing their strengths and weaknesses, listening out for heartfelt gasps of approval or groans of out-and-out revulsion. Readers, for their part, use public readings as tasting sessions, determining whether a particular poet whets the appetite or not. Did that generally portentous air of gloom and despondency fail, in the end, to appeal?

And poems take on a much fuller human character when read aloud; they are contextualised, humanised, demystified. A tone is established, bringing to earth something that may once have seemed, thanks to too much wilful grammatical subversiveness, to be edging towards pure abstraction. In the words of John Milton, "printed poems are the flat score of the spoken word". That flat score bursts into life with the maker's voice behind it. (If the maker has a good voice, that is.)

> *The poet has lived inside his poem in ways that no one else could have*

But in those bad old, pre-Sixties days of intense, silent reading in that back bedroom behind the gasworks, poems, by and large, spoke to the inner ear. (Where else could they be heard?) And sometimes it seemed almost unimaginable who might have been their authors. Perhaps – such was their subtlety, their awe-inspiring inscrutability – language had written them with no human assistance whatsoever.

Peter Orr, now living in vigorous retirement in Cleveland, reminisced about those times to me this week. "I remember one reading at the Pen Club at the beginning of the Sixties," he told me. "All the poets were sitting around in a kind of semi-circle, not quite sure what to do. One of them was Stevie Smith..."

Much has changed between then and now, not least in the style of reading. Orr finds poets of the present guilty of conformity of style and understatement. Their voices, he says, sound somewhat similar to each other. Perhaps TV is to blame for this standardisation of pronunciation, hastening along the slow, poisonous spread of Estuary English.

There is no equivalent, these days, of the Baroque extravagance of the reading style of a John Heath Stubbs, for example. Rhetorical splendour has all but died away – in both the writing and the reading. The resounding phrases of the past have vanished. Where, he asks, are those great statements that poets used to make, often in the magnificent opening lines of their poems? He then quotes John Donne at me, followed by Hugh MacDiarmid, whom he recorded at Biggar in Lanarkshire in July, 1966: "Are the living so much use/ That we need to mourn the dead?"

Is this true? In part. But we need to ask ourselves why it *may* be true, and the answer is tangled up with questions about the way in which poets see themselves. Some of the poets of the present, as represented on these new cassettes – Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, Glyn Maxwell, Selima Hill – do indeed seem to belong to a more modest crowd than their Sixties counterparts. They speak more casually, more conversationally, even a little more lazily, if you like. They don't tend to raise up poems as if they were objects of splendour that had been crafted with the express intention of dazzling, if not overawing, those who are fortunate enough to be invited into their company. The poets of our time seem to be within our reach, educated up to our own modest standards and no further, living and breathing rather in the way that we live and breathe. All part of the heaving, demotic crowd, doing nothing more lofty than explaining their own lives. The one great exception to this generalisation, paradoxically enough, is that Leeds lad Tony Harrison, who wages his war upon received pronunciation with thundering rhetorical force on the third of these cassettes, thickening and thickening his glottals until the looms of owned language are smashed apart.

But what is it exactly that a poet should be able to bring to his own poem when he voices it? According to T S Eliot, introducing his own reading of *The Four Quartets*, what a poet can – and should – do is to deliver to the listener the way the poem sounded when he'd finished it. The poet has lived inside his poem in ways that no one else could; words have been fended off, others chosen; suggestions of yet other words lie behind the words finally opted for, like shadows eerily mismatching their objects. In reading, echoes of these words are often heard. Such subtleties come over time and again in a good reading.

But the voicing of poems is not always a good thing, especially if the poet is not a good reader, let alone a good interpreter of his or her own work. Some poets reduce the imaginative scope of the poems they read by the physical limitations of their own voices. Though poems are always written by someone, their reach, if the poem is good, is much greater than the circumstances and the life of their creator.

A good poet who reads a good poem badly limits it to the physical capabilities of one imperfect life on one particular evening – just as a bad film adaptation, seen before a good book is read, can ruin that book for ever.

So the voicing of poems is always fraught with perils and dangers.

The first three 'Poetry Quartets' are published by the British Council and Bloodaxe Books; each double-cassette costs £11.75. The poets reading are: Simon Armitage, Jackie Kay, Kathleen Jamie and Glyn Maxwell; Fleur Adcock, Selima Hill, Carol Rumens and Carol Ann Duffy; and James Fenton, Tony Harrison, Ken Smith and Peter Reading

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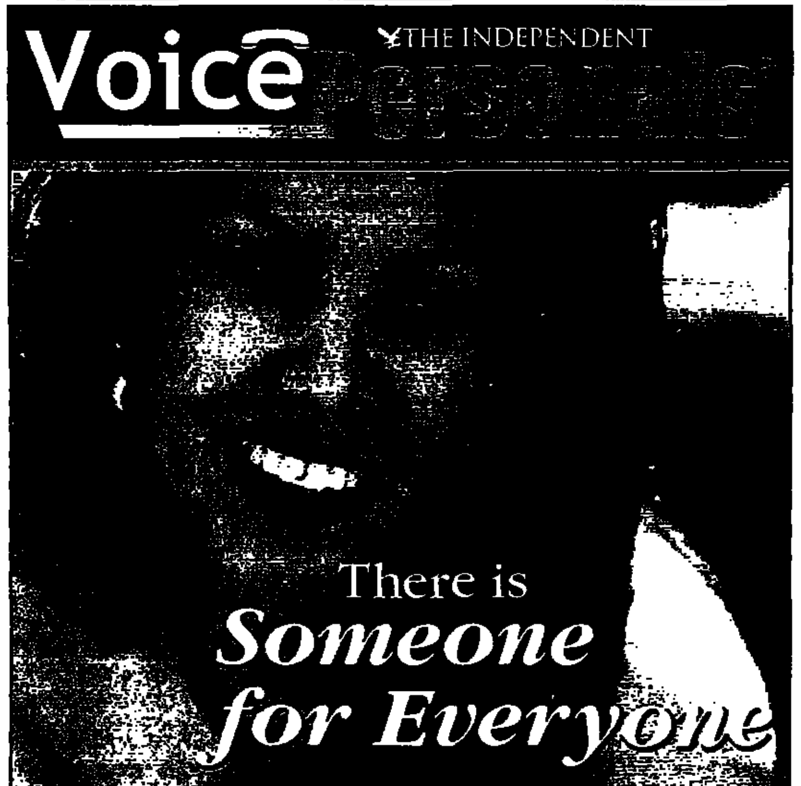

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women seeking men

ROMANTIC GRADUATE REQUIRED
Lady graduate, 40s, trim, no ties, enjoys country walks, wining, dining, watersports, travel, theatre, dancing, good conversation, living on the South Coast, seeking a tall, educated, slimmish gent, under 52, non-smoker, for a relationship. ☎5498

WARM WOMAN
Female, 52, seeking a warm man. Sheffield. ☎5497

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
Good-looking female, just 45, 5'4", GSOH, light brown/blue, self-employed, likes classical music, story telling, theatre, travel, arts, horse riding, sailing, sports, seeks like-minded man, also seeking a special friendship/relationship. London. ☎5640

AQUARIAN
Female, 38, 5'8", dark auburn hair, brown eyes, seeks tall, N/S, witty, intelligent chap, 40-50, GSOH, must love countryside, animals, visiting ancient sights, SW area. ☎4782

MAD MARCH HARE
Female, 38, loves countryside, Africa, cinema, laughter, pasta, fun, seeks for 1999 a like-minded, tall, spontaneous man, 35-45, N/S, GSOH essential. London based. ☎4763

ARTISTIC
Well-travelled, mature female student, blonde hair, effervescent personality, seeks cultured male companion, 40-50, with bald/short hair and sparkling eyes, who loves life/travel. Any nationality. Surrey based. ☎5416

HI THERE!
Attractive, dark, artistic, divorced female, young-looking 44, teaches, writes, shops, enjoys good conversation, food, travel, films, theatre, music, varied tastes, seeking a warm, fun, intelligent man, similar age/interests. S Wales based ☎5304

MAN FRIDAY
Attractive brunette, 27, enjoys conversation, theatre, music, cinema and good food, is seeking an honest, caring male, aged 26-33, for new adventures. London based. ☎5389

HOLDING OUT
Intelligent, attractive, slim, bubbly blonde, 30, 5'4", seeks slim, handsome, intelligent, sincere, honest, successful, professional white gentleman, 27-35, 6', athletic build, for happiness and long-term relationship. Herts/Bucks area preferably. ☎5211

STRONG, SOMETIMES VULNERABLE
Responsibly hedonistic, attractive, fit, thoughtful, professional female, 33, seeking a similar male, 32-40. ☎5514

WANTED: ONE MAN
Cheerful, friendly teacher, 24, seeking a caring, active male, 25-35, who likes rabbits, music and can make me laugh. Northampton. ☎5507

EMPTY ROOMS
Intelligent, blonde single mum, 5'6", slim build, graduate, enjoys science fiction, rock music, offbeat humour, politics, animals, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, intelligent male, 35-45 for a fusion of minds. South Wales or anywhere. ☎5382

LOOKING FOR ENRICHMENT
Sociable, engaging, warm-hearted male, 34-38, required for sociable evenings, quality conversation and meaningful company. London area. ☎5391

EMPTY ROOMS
Intelligent, blonde single mum, 5'6", graduate, slim build, enjoys science fiction, rock music, offbeat humour, politics, animals, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, intelligent male, 35-45, for a fusion of minds. South Wales or anywhere. ☎5382

LATIN IS EXCITING?
Box 4161? Take 100? I rang you too late, so please call me! ☎5381

SEEKING MILLENNIUM MAN
Attractive Midlands-based lawyer, 38, into tennis, dancing, cinema, theatre, seeks decent guy, who's interesting, lively and reasonably career-minded, to enjoy life and laugh with. ☎5318

HEY, GENTLEMAN, 60-70
You should realise what you're missing. Attractive, vivacious, educated lady, seeking an unattached, interesting, warm-hearted man. I'm great fun, a good conversationalist and I make excellent coffee. NW Manchester. ☎5448

VIBRANT WOMAN
Funny, striking, affectionate, intelligent, happy female, 39, no kids, enjoys travel, mountains, cinema, conversation, books, friends and good food, seeking a similar, professional male. Oxford area. ☎5326

MAN WANTED
Lively, intelligent, friendly female, 24, with strong Christian faith, into youth work, pubs, running, seeking a man, who makes her laugh and isn't weird. Cambridge area. ☎5506

INVESTIGATE LONDON
From smoky jazz bars to musty book shops. Female, 37, leading complicated life, seeks straightforward relationship, with chap, 40+. ☎5429

TAUREAN SCOT
Petite, attractive, taurean woman, enjoys world travel, books, arts, good wine and flowers, seeking a soul mate, 50-60, with similar interests, located in NW England. ☎5329

NORFOLK DIVA
Independent, hard-working, professional woman, mid-50s, sometimes sparkling, seeking new male friend, to share city and country pleasures and a laugh with. No old movies. ☎5328

BRUISED POLISH FLOWER
Intelligent, vegetarian female, 37, N/S, seeks kind, gentle, sensitive, non-judgemental Christian man, with SOH, for friendship, possible relationship, evenings out and fun. ☎5455

PRETTY WOMAN
Interested in law, would like to meet a tall, dark and handsome, white male barrister, 29-39, who's caring and romantic, to share my interests in law, for friendship, possibly a relationship. Reading in the London area. ☎5525

SEEKING SOUL MATE
Petite black woman, slim build, enjoys holidays, good food, keeping fit, seeking a male, 35-45, GSOH, for companionship, friendship/relationship. N/S preferred. ☎5521

ARE YOU...
...tall, craggy, 50ish, adjacent to north Bucks, fit but not fanatic, sensitive and humorous? If you like to walk, talk, play and have an idea or two, this artistic and eclectic woman, needs some loving. ☎5371

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL
Fun, serious, considered, reliable female, 27, with GSOH, enjoy dining in or out, music, singing, theatre, you name I'll try it. I'm seeking a special man to enhance my life. London. ☎5311

LANCELOT...
...The Lady of the Lake beckons. Slim, petite, fit, warm, bright, intelligent, attractive widow, seeks tallish, slim, fit, gallant, special man, 50-60ish, N/S, for a long-term relationship. Near London preferably. ☎5516

ORIENTAL SPICE
Filipina lady, 42, widow, one child, honest and sincere, seeking N/S, tall, sincere and caring man, with 40-50, GSOH, must be employed, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎7767

CHRISTIAN LADY
Female, 25, 5'3", auburn hair, blue eyes, GSOH, N/S, enjoys eating in or out, cinema, bowling and having fun, seeks N/S, attractive, caring, decent Christian guy, 25-30, with similar interests and GSOH. West Midlands. ☎5451

FORMER JUNOESQUE BEAUTY
Now slightly faded, to attractive grandmother, 57, seeking a true male friend, with GSOH, to share theatre, music, travel, metaphysics and a belief in miracles. NW Manchester. ☎5517

FIRST-TIME ADVERTISER
Attractive, educated black female, 37, N/S, likes travel and socialising, seeks tall 30-something male, any race/nationality, for friendship, possible romance. Must be genuine and caring. East Midlands area. ☎5390

WEST LONDON
Tall, slim, fit, attractive, independent, professional female, 45ish, likes most outdoor sports, cooking, concerts, theatre and smoky wine bars, seeking an intelligent, fun-loving and genuine, career-minded male, for a possible relationship. ☎5457

COME INTO MY LIFE
Tall, fit, fair, slim female, 43, youthful in mind/body, seeks tall, dark-skinned male, for friendship/relationship and to cherish. Cambs. ☎5452

MAD FOR IT!
Mad, happy girl, 20, 5'7", smoker, brown/blue, enjoys gigs and chilling out, seeking funny, handsome bloke, 25-35, with similar interests, for friendship and maybe more. ☎5526

PERSONABLE PROFESSIONAL
Slim, attractive lady, mid-40s, varied interests - cinema, travel, theatre, reading, dining out, seeking a gentleman, 48-55, similar interests, for friendship, possibly leading to more. London/Surrey based. ☎5319

men seeking women

HANDSOME KENT GRADUATE
Male, not into pubs, clubs, seeking a tall, serious, feminine, professional woman, N/S, no ties, for relationship, with a view to marriage. ☎5496

CONTINENTAL PROFESSIONAL
Central London/Geneva man, seeks attractive, warm, tallish, cuddly lady, 50ish, for fun, friendship, travel, theatre and more. ☎5508

EDINBURGH BASED
Single, well-built male, 32, 5'10", blond/blue, N/S, likes cinema, restaurants, shopping, pubs, clubs, swimming, seeking female, 24-32, GSOH, for friendship and more. ☎5209

TOWN/COUNTRY HOUSE
Quiet weekends beside beautiful beaches, offered to stressed, slim, professional London girl, aged 20-40, by handsome, romantic, slightly mad guy. South Wales based. ☎4976

SACRED UNITY
Active and creative, N/S, N/D world citizen, who's into spirituality, humanity, reality, wishes to share infinite space, with a tough, beautiful, independent, serene, stylish, successful and self-assured, untall, younger female, 30s, Europe. ☎5392

MISERABLE LOSER
Failed artist, early 30s, running away from all forms of responsibility, seeking a tall, attractive, intelligent, solvent, blonde or brunette lady, who doesn't pack or nag. ☎5511

DISSOLUTE MAN...
...45, 6'2", slim build, many vices, seeks female rake, who's blessed with similar attributes. London. ☎5378

FUNNY, WELL TRAVELLED
Educated 6'er, 55, seeks Ms Right, no great expectations, but if you like the things London can offer and would like great company, I'm here! ☎5610

ATTRACTIVE SWEDISH MAN
Male, 23, brown/blue, likes concerts, nature, deep conversation, walks, seeking a female, 20-30, redhead preferred. London or Middlesex. ☎5377

LIKES A LAUGH
Young male, 41, cultured, diverse, amusing, active, seeks female, 28-33, for friendship, romance and a family. Ring me and I'll make you smile. Bath. ☎5383

IF YOU'RE LOOKING...
...this man has love to give. Humorous, professional male, 5'11", slim build, big bike, house in Oxford, likes vegetarian food, pubs, music, socialising. You want more? ☎5305

RARE OPPORTUNITY
Exceptional man, unexpectedly available, international company director, young 47, 6'3", successful, good-looking, kind, considerate, looking for a slim, attractive female, 30s, to share life with. Hants based. ☎5512

SWEET SURRENDER
Very attractive, very dominant male, 25, seeks loving, submissive female, 18-35 for fun, friendship and love? ☎5459

SINGLE WHITE MALE
Genuine SE London guy, 40, 5'11", own home, no ties, solvent, into countryside, seaside and sailing, seeks slim/medium-built, genuine girlfriend. ☎5398

OFFBEAT GRADUATE
Affectionate and companionable, seeks animal-loving female companion, 50+, to share art galleries, concerts and cinema etc., also exploring London or country, conversation and other simple pleasures. ☎3151

NEW BEGINNING
Male, 50, wearing well, interest in arts, cinema, world travel, food, music, seeking a female, for happy times and a stable relationship. London. ☎5314

GERMAN/ITALIAN OPTIMIST
Tall, brown-eyed, brown-haired man, 32, into Buddhism, sailing, sky diving, art, philosophy, seeking an unconventional, intelligent, open-minded, tall and attractive woman, 25-35, any origin. London. ☎5509

WHY AM I SINGLE?
Nice-looking male, 32, 5'9", graduate, slim, unpretentious and considerate, with GSOH, interested in music, arts, enjoys racket sports, cycling, travelling, seeking a similar female, 25-33, to share life's special moments with. London. ☎5513

READ THIS AND RING!
Honest, down-to-earth, blue-eyed male, 33, 6', good personality, likes cinema, concerts, theatre, eating out, seeking a like-minded female, 26-36, for friendship and a long-term relationship. London area. ☎5453

ATTRACTIVE MALE
Would like to meet an intellectual female, for romance and relationship. ☎5431

WRITER
Male, 36, 5'9", slim, Jewish, media job, thoughtful, cultured, amusing, loves modern art, classical music, country walks, is seeking a kind, compatible female, aged 22-32. ☎5327

HONEST AND HANDSOME
Graduate, 38, 5'11", solvent, successful in the arts, loves outdoors, fine wine, 'Friends' and good conversation (sometimes silly, sometimes serious), seeking like-minded, slim girl, under 40. London. ☎5418

REAL WORLD? GET LOST!
Make a better world with me. Cultured, dashing male graduate, 30, 6', seeking romance. Worcs based. ☎5315

ATTRACTIVE ARCHITECT
Interior designer, early 30s, 5'10", slim build, green eyes, likes music, creativity, loves children, seeking a fit, slim, fun, attractive and creative female, similar age and profession, with morals and values, to settle down with. London and surrounding area. ☎5449

HANDSOME AND GENUINE
City professional, 31, 6', N/S, athletic build, seeking attractive, slim female, 5'6"+, N/S, with caring soul for friendship & romance. London. ☎5455

PYROMANIAC SEEKS MATCH
Male, mid-30s, slim, fit and active, seeking a similar female, for who knows what? Beds/Herts/Bucks area. ☎5331

MAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS
Author and trained lawyer, 35, 6'2", good looks, is seeking a woman, 25-35, for romance in London. ☎5446

CALL ME
Professional chap, 39, 6'4", is seeking a lady, to share friendship, films and a love of the countryside. London, Bucks or Northants area. ☎5321

MANCHESTER MAN
Broad-shouldered, honest, reliable, mixed race man, seeks interesting female, 20+, with varied interests. ☎5204

CUDDLY OLDER WOMAN?
Honest and dependable, quite shy, caring country lad, 30, graduate, seeking an outwardly conventional, fuller-figured lady, 45-60, with a sense of the ridiculous, for close friendship. NW. ☎5323

EXOTIC ADVENT
Kind, sensitive, kind, honest, reliable, attractive male, 32, 5'9", dark hair/eyes, seeks special, understanding, exotic lady, 20-40, any nationality, to spend some time with. London or Middlesex area. ☎5380

DIET PEPSI MAN
Musician, writer and lecturer, early 40s, slim, with own hair/viagra, seeks female soul mate, to share cafe society, city breaks and wild times. Brighton. ☎5372

SINGLE WHITE MALE
Warm, witty, fit, solvent, educated male, 37, seeking similar, black or Indian lady, to share thoughts, laughter and the good things in life. ☎5434

SLEEPLESS IN GUERNSEY
Civil servant, 25, 5'8", brown/blue, kind, caring and romantic, GSOH, enjoys pubs, music, keeping fit, eating out, travel, seeks lady, 18-30, similar interests, GSOH for friendship, possibly leading to more. ☎5396

WOODY ALLEN/FRIEDA KAHLOW
Multicultural, sincere, academic male, 35, seeking a witty female, possibly with a tattoo, to share the arty aspects of life or salsa. Manchester. ☎5432

BARBICAN HALL
Mahler 2, 21st Feb. Attractive lady, nose ring, DMs, gave me a gorgeous smile as I left. You were in seat T3, I was in T7. Please call. ☎5523

ORIGINAL MATERIAL
Creative graduate male, aged 31, seriously into songwriting, music, cinema, poetry and people, is seeking a witty, fascinating female, for fun, friendship and inspiration. Tyneside area. ☎5330

HONEST AND CREATIVE
Professional male, 39, into music, theatre, creative arts, seeks honest, caring female, 35-45, Essex based. ☎5316

BRISTOL BASED
Caring, professional male, late 40s, 6', cosmopolitan, into spirituality, sport, good communication, honesty and empathy, seeking a feminine, warm-hearted female, to share our humanity with me. ☎5184

SWEETNESS
Tender, loving, attractive, confident and kind male, 26, seeking a feminine, petite female, 18+, for friendship, romance and lasting love. ☎5395

ASIAN SOUGHT
Tall, slim, intelligent, romantic, educated male, 56, into sailing, travel, reading, cinema, music and more, seeking an attractive, articulate, tactile Asian female, for friendship, maybe more. Notts based. ☎5379

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Genuine male, 30, attractive, likes eating out, films, music, travel, seeks kind, friendly white female, 18-30, for friendship, possible relationship. London/Middlesex area. ☎5417

ASIAN MAN
Very attractive man, enjoys most things, seeking a female, under 70. London. ☎5205

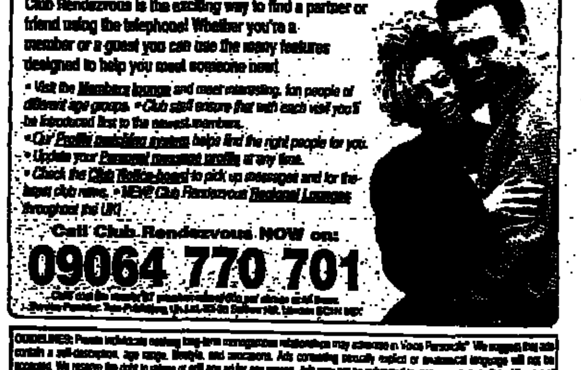
HI THERE
Plymouth male, early 40s, GSOH, with an interesting job and a comfortable lifestyle, enjoys walking, sailing, cooking, music, cinema, theatre, arts and society, seeking a like-minded, fun-loving female. ☎5325

EFFERVESCENT AND EXTROVERT
Single male, young 38, non-smoker, no ties, enjoys life, fit and active, keen on sport (football and cricket), cinema, eating out, having a drink and also travel. If this takes your fancy, please give me a call. ☎5430

SAILING ADVENTURE
Next three to five years, in 40' yacht? Me: 6', presentable, easygoing, experienced sailer, seeking slimmish, seasick resistant, happy, N/S female mate, 50ish. South West. ☎5210

alternative LIFESTYLE

LOOKING FOR SOUL MATE
Attractive male/female, blonde hair and blue eyes, transsexual, wicked SOH, seeking a bisexual male, for friendship and sharing life with. Manchester. ☎5397



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هكذا من الأهل

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

By Fiona Sturges

EXCELLENT · GOOD · OK · POOR · DEADLY

	OVERVIEW	CRITICAL VIEW	OUR VIEW	ON VIEW
THE FILM BELOVED	**Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's novel sees Oprah Winfrey's Sethe haunted by the ghost of her murdered child (Thandie Newton).**	"It isn't exactly boring, but it lacks any of the qualities that could sustain its inordinate length: narrative drive, passionate engagement, thematic complexity," observed Anthony Quinn. "*Beloved* deserves its bravery medal, but at three hours, it's a grim stretch," remarked *The Guardian*, while the *Daily Mail* noted: "Despite its strengths and admirable intentions, it is a tract rather than an attraction." "Almost unendurable tedium," spluttered the *Evening Standard*, while *The Daily Telegraph* deemed it "a sumptuous, fascinating failure". "Demme weaves ghosts, memory and the pain of the present into a beguiling tapestry," revealed *The Big Issue*.	Director Jonathan Demme glosses the deep-rooted terror of Morrison's story with taste. A heartfelt but ultimately dull picture which could have done with being about an hour shorter.	*Beloved* is out on nationwide release, certificate 15. 171 minutes
THE PLAY MACBETH	**John Crowley directs the brooding and handsome Rufus Sewell in Shakespeare's bloody tragedy. Sally Dexter plays his conniving wife.**	"If the ghost fails to materialise in the supper party scene, then so does any real sense of the horror and the harrowing sadness of this tragedy," reasoned Paul Taylor, continuing: "Sewell looks to be badly out of his depth." "If blood is Macbeth's crucial, animating fluid, then this production suffers from severe anaemia," reproached the *Evening Standard*. "You will find nothing very rich or exotic in this brutalist production," wrote *The Times*, while the *Financial Times* warned: "Sewell fans will be disappointed by Shakespeare. Shakespeare fans will be disappointed by Sewell." "Sewell and Dexter are an ideal deadly couple," countered the *Daily Mail*.	Sewell fails to invite sympathy or convey tragedy in Crowley's spartan production. His visible discomfort has placed him on the illustrious list of actors to have been defeated by *Macbeth*.	*Macbeth* is at the Queen's Theatre, W1 until 5 June. For booking and enquiries call 0171-494 5040.
THE DANCE THE RETURN OF DON JUAN	**39 year-old dancer Irek Mukhamedov stars in Kim Brandstrup's austere staging of *The Return Of Don Juan*, partly based on a Danish radio play by Oluf Bang.**	"There can be few men able to roll their eyes more fetchingly than Irek Mukhamedov, or stroll more sinuously across the boards. Whether the show does justice to its star is another matter," observed John Percival. "Intelligent, yes, well-executed, visually stylish – but hardly the point in Don Juan," remarked the *Daily Telegraph*, crying: "Where's the sex?" "Brandstrup's choreographic text has many virtues, and Mukhamedov is here at full and superlative stretch," pronounced the *Financial Times*, while *The Times* stated, "This show proves Mukhamedov's stage power remains undiminished, that he is charismatic and forceful as ever."	A sublime performance from Mukhamedov makes *Don Juan* worth seeing, though the production was hindered by a confused narrative and the lumbering rhythms of Kim Helweg's score.	Wednesday's was the last show at Sadler's Wells, though a national tour includes the Wimbledon Theatre, 13-15 April, 0181-540 0362
THE ALBUM KULA SHAKER	**Retro-hippies Kula Shaker follow-up their million-selling début album *K* with more Sixties-style psychedelic rock in *Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts*.**	"A truly horrible and half-baked affair, full of bogus portents of a 'new world'," bemoaned Andy Gill. "Ludicrous lyrics and ramshackle philosophising detract from Kula Shaker's undoubted musical flair," grumbled the *Daily Mail*. "Mills has a tendency to chuck out fourth-form theories on life as if he was imparting pearls of wisdom," mumbled the *Daily Mirror*. "Someone involved with this fiasco must know that this is The Worst Album Ever Made," barked *Time Out*. "Reheated prog rock condescension and large helpings of superficial ethnicity," fulminated *Uncut*. "A spirited attempt to embrace the ridiculous," conceded the *NME*.	Another Bluffer's Guide To Hinduism from Crispian Mills and his patchouli-oiled friends. Trite philosophical observations and overblown prog rock fashion this truly ludicrous album.	*Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts* (Columbia) will be available in record shops from Monday

EXIT POLL

LIFT OFF

A PLAY ABOUT RACIAL HARMONY AND PEER PRESSURE

ROYAL COURT, UPSTAIRS
AT THE AMBASSADORS
LONDON

MARGARET BRAND
52, teacher, London
The way the kids play around is exactly how they are at a real school. It was interesting to watch a play and be looking up to the stage. Although it is much more professional, it is like the kind of drama we do at my school.

DAMIEN SAUNDERS
16, student, London
It's really brilliant. It made me laugh and I liked the scene changes, how it moved between the present and the past. It was a really good story line. The actors' concentration was amazing, especially as they had to walk past the audience all the time.

CHRISTOPHER BAXTER
41, doctor, London
It was very powerful, sad, and frightening. But what really stood out is just how modern it is. It's very real, you can recognise people from estates, or kids at school from the characters in this play. Thoroughly enjoyable, and very funny as well.

GUY CHAPMAN
37, PR, London
It's a fabulous play. I loved the direction, with the stage in the middle of the audience, the scaffolding and television put up high in the corner of the room and the simple, concrete stage. It's one of the best plays I have seen in a long time.

Physical force in a bedsit

THEATRE

PADDY IRISHMAN, PADDY ENGLISHMAN, AND PADDY...?
TRICYCLE THEATRE
LONDON

PADDY IRISHMAN, Paddy Englishman, and Paddy...? is a bit of a mouthful as a name, but then the ideal subtitle for Declan Croghan's new play would also be a touch unwieldy: *In the Shadow of 'The Shadow of a Gunman'*. Located in a squalid Kilburn bed-sit occupied by a *Likely Lads* duo of young, expat Irish labourers, this appealing tragi-comedy pointedly borrows the template Sean O'Casey employed in his play set in a Dublin tenement in 1920. The twist Croghan gives to the same basic elements – a youth farcically trading on a false reputation for plucky IRA loyalty, scruffy domesticity disrupted by a suitcase full of explosives dumped by a genuine terrorist, and a problematically idealistic young woman willing to take charge of this – is designed to point up the differences and continuities between the Irish political landscape back then and the way it appears now in the light of the referendum and the Good Friday agreement.

The two major adjustments would seem to be in the depiction of the terrorist and of the young woman. The irony, with the former, is that the bloody shoot-out in a local pub which gives this unreconstructed die-hard a mortal wound is not with the conventional enemy but (if I understand it correctly) with his own top brass who, given the current climate, are out to eliminate him. As for the woman, Una (the excellent Annie Farr), she is no longer O'Casey's misogynist picture of dangerous female fan-worship edging into tragedy, but a woman who has been used and emotionally damaged by the cause – ordered, from the age of 15, to flirt with British soldiers and lure them to their deaths.

It is one thing for the Irish likely lads (played with a lovely, fleet comic timing by Michael Colgan and Tom Flaherty) to plan a getaway from the stagnant, inward-looking world of the expat Irish pub. But is it possible for someone with Una's CV to sever her agonising ties with the past?

If O'Casey's play elides anti-heroic comedy and tragic feeling, Croghan's piece less successfully lurches between broad sitcom and moments of heightened emotion that feel rather engineered. In Anthony Clark's skilled and entertaining production, there are some nice sequences demonstrating the ghastliness of bed-sit life (cloths used for washing armpits instantly re-employed for serving the emetic breakfast fry-up) and the panic of our two reluctant explosives-harbourers is paced to perfection. The play, though, adds up to less than the sum of its awkwardly fitted parts.

PAUL TAYLOR

A far cry from O'Casey: Annie Farr, and Tom Farrelly *Robbie Jack*

Heavenly Mahler

CLASSICAL

PHILHARMONIA/BOULEZ
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

RARE INDEED are those occasions when a concert enshrines a performance that is so special that you savour the privilege of witnessing it. Such was the effect on Tuesday night when the American mezzo-soprano Michelle DeYoung, the Philharmonia and Pierre Boulez held the audience on the edge of a shared breath for the last of Mahler's five *Rückert lieder*.

"I live alone in my heaven, in my loving, in my song", writes the poet, and when DeYoung had sung her final *lied*, Boulez and his players (the strings in particular) responded with a degree of rapt tenderness that was unique in my experience. In a truly great performance, every phrase, every textural component fitted its context without any slack. Tempos were perfectly judged, yet each orchestral soloist enjoyed what seemed like infinite breathing space. It was an inspiring example of interpretative rightness.

The concert was the latest instalment in the Philharmonia's ongoing series "Mahler & Vienna – Beginnings & Endings" and Mahler's song-cycle was its undoubted highlight. DeYoung's contribution to the first half was for Schoenberg's "Song of the Wood Dove", a sombre elegy taken from the epic *Gurrelieder* and pared down from a large orchestra to just 17 players. No one could have faulted Boulez, the Ensemble Intercontemporain or DeYoung's effulgent singing. Yet when taken out of context, Schoenberg's dank, post-Wagnerian essay seems excessively indebted to a musical language that even by 1911 (the year *Gurrelieder* was completed) was already suffering its death throes.

The concert opened with Boulez and the Ensemble in Schoenberg's restless First Chamber Symphony, a work where the pull between post-Romanticism and Modernist innovation makes for some fascinating tensions. Themes crowd past in heady profusion and the sum effect is anxious, overwrought and compulsively busy.

Placed next to it, Anton Webern's four-minute *Five Orchestral Pieces* becomes a select community of exquisite tropical birds. Webern's orchestration incorporates sundry colourful instruments, all used with the greatest economy. The pulsing third piece is gentle yet starry-bright, suggesting vistas way beyond its miniaturist length.

The concert ended with what is perhaps the cornerstone of 12-tone music, Schoenberg's masterful Variations for Orchestra, Op 31. Some of the audience walked out after 10 minutes, others stayed to cheer the Philharmonia's performance. The Variations end with a bang, but on leaving the hall, all I heard were rave reactions to Mahler, DeYoung, Boulez and Rückert's solitary loving. Innovative compositional systems are all well and good, but taking music to heart is quite another matter.

ROB COWAN

Khartoum to Paris by giraffe

THE WEEK IN RADIO

MAGNUS MILLS

MONDAY EVENING's *Lamacq Live* (Radio 1) featured The Stereophonics playing some convincing rock direct from the BBC Hippodrome Theatre at Golders Green. Steve Lamacq has the wisdom on these occasions to leave his guest acts alone with an appreciative audience and allow them to get on with the show uninterrupted. The result is invariably a session heard as the musicians want it to be heard, and The Stereophonics made good use of their allotted time. A powerful performance included the new single "Just Looking" and the much-overlooked "Local Boy in the Photograph". Lead singer Kelly Jones has a fine voice reminiscent of Jake Burns from Stiff Little Fingers, a band still going strong 20 years after they first emerged. With any luck, The Stereophonics will still be flying the flag into the next century.

Back in 1827 it was exotic beasts that drew the crowds. This week's serial *Zarafa* (Radio 4, weekdays) told the story of a young giraffe given as a present from the Viceroy of Egypt to the King of France. This Viceroy, Mehemet Ali, was a despotic type who'd already enslaved half of Africa before trying to get pally with the French. His cruelty to the Nubian slaves was notorious, whereas no expense would be spared to ensure the giraffe's good health. Michael Allin's fascinating account of Zarafa's capture in Sudan and subsequent journey to Paris was sympathetically read by Andrew Sachs.

Orphaned by Arab hunters while she was only six feet tall, Zarafa was taken to Khartoum, strapped on to a camel and sailed to Alexandria on the deck of a felucca; she was then shipped to France in an Italian brigantine with her head sticking out of the hold. A giant stable built by the prefect of Marseilles caused alarm as the inhabitants began to wonder what sort of dangerous creature was to be brought among them. Yet whenever people laid eyes on the giraffe they found her beguiling and gentle. Zarafa was more fortunate than an Indian rhinoceros that arrived in Lisbon 300 years earlier. Forced to take part in mortal combat with an elephant (which fled and broke through the gates) the rhino was then dispatched as a gift to the Pope, only to be shipwrecked in the Gulf of Genoa. Sometimes you just can't win.

Humans, of course, choose their own dangerous occupations. In *Bridging the Gap* (Radio 4, Sunday) this paper's travel editor, Simon Calder, took it upon himself to cross the Darien Gap, an 80-mile stretch of swamp and rainforest on the frontier between Colombia and Panama. The great Captain W E Johns (creator of Biggles) couldn't have thought up a grimmer list of perils facing the adventurer, including snakes, jaguars, mosquitoes, bandits and guerrillas. None of these seemed to bother Calder in the slightest, and he turned down the suggestion that he should carry a shotgun. Persuaded by an army trainer in jungle survival to take at least a machete, he then called at the British embassy in Bogota for some last-minute advice. "Nobody except crazy people from the BBC would ever think of going there," remarked the Ambassador in sedate tones, before breaking into a peal of reassuring laughter. At the end of the first episode we left Calder entering the gloom of a Panamanian night, having just been deserted by his guide. Does nothing frighten this man? Well, nothing in the jungle anyway.

IN THE BOOKS PAGES

Harold Bloom stands up for Shakespeare against Britain's dumb dons

PAGE 14

RICHARD DEACON
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ARTS DIARY

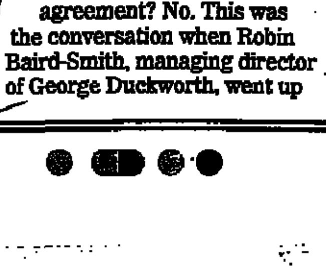
DAVID LISTER

MR EDWARD Smith from Birmingham had a letter in *The Independent* yesterday, noting with some surprise that the salary being advertised for the new Arts Council director of music to replace the departing Kathryn McDowell is £50,000, while for the new director of communications to replace the departing Phil Murphy it is £70,000. Could Edward Smith, I wonder, be Ed Smith, managing director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra? In any case, I think I can supply the answer. The director of communications is worth £20,000 more because he or she has to draft the chairman Gerry Robinson's speeches about music, such as the chairman's annual lecture, which last year stated that British orchestras should learn from their American counterparts about how to take music out into the community. The director of communications has to do all of this while also having to ignore the advice and factual input from the lower-paid director of music. And when it emerges that Mr Robinson had got it plumb wrong and that the US orchestra he cited had hired experts from British orchestras to advise them, the director of communications has to field all the flak and avoid apologising to the director of music. All that stress surely is worth the extra £20,000.

GWYNETH PALTROW has made Shakespeare hip again, apparently. Now it is the turn of Ralph Fiennes to do the same for Pushkin. Fiennes has just been directed by his sister Martha in *Onegin*, based on Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*. The film is released in the UK this summer, but brother and sister are insisting that the première be held in St Petersburg to coincide with this year's celebration of Pushkin's bicentenary.

Fiennes tells me: "It is almost impossible for us to understand what Pushkin means to the Russian people. He is regarded as the father of Russian literature. St Petersburg is very much Onegin's city, and Pushkin spent his last years there before his death in a duel. We shot part of the film in the city and Martha and I are determined to première the film there."

◆



WHAT DO a publisher and an arts minister talk about when they meet? Government policy on literature? The demise of the net book agreement? No. This was the conversation when Robin Baird-Smith, managing director of George Duckworth, went up to the arts minister Alan Howarth at the W H Smith Literary Award on Tuesday. "Hello. I'm Beryl Bainbridge's publisher. Your father used to beat me at Winchester."

◆

POP QUIZ compilers should check out the lower regions of this week's singles chart. At number 36 is a song called "Precious Time" by Van Morrison (left). This, amazingly, is the first top 40 hit he has registered in solo career. Van the middle-aged man is 53. Much has been made of Debbie Harry getting back into the charts in their fifties. Surely there's a thesis somewhere on the boost for a chap in his middle years doing it for the first time.

THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

Bard against the beards

Harold Bloom, scourge of US campus fashion, marks the Brits down too. **Boyd Tonkin** talks to him

The *Yale Herald's* freshman website calls Professor Harold Bloom "one hell of a tough grader". Don't we just know it. With breakfast barely over in his Knightsbridge hotel, and his university an ocean's width away, Bloom makes its plain that our own alleged high-flyers have already flunked his test. The day before, he had gone to Oxford to present a slice of his encomium to his beloved Sir John Falstaff ("The mortal god of my imaginings") – one of the virtuoso character studies that fill out the 770-page bulk of Bloom's new bestseller, *Shakespeare: the Invention of the Human* (Fourth Estate, £25). The bovine Oxonians had lost his thread. "I watched the faces of my audience as I delivered this and I saw blank incomprehension. I had a vision of an airplane flying over cows in a meadow."

If today's students disappoint the ever-active critical volcano who calls himself "the pariah and renegade of my profession", how much more the doltish dons who teach them. "What we're talking about is the destruction of all cognitive and aesthetic standards in the study and interpretation of literature in the name of various grand ideas, like feminism (so-called), like multiculturalism (so-called), like cultural materialism (so-called)." Such invective – what Bloom calls his "usual diatribe" against tenured wreckers – has gingered up campus debate no end since his explosive defence of *The Western Canon* in 1994.

Now, though, his Shakespearean blockbuster has collected sniffy notices from Britons who stand far outside the radical "School of Resentment" that Bloom loves to hate. The likes of professors John Carey and Stanley Wells have sniped at this transatlantic takeover bid for the nation's "official cult". Not only do new "resentniks" attack beleaguered "Sir John Bloomstaff"; so do the old pedants (of whatever age), the plodding "mouldy figs". "That's something I've taken from the jazz tradition," he explains, "when the bopsters of my youth – followers, like myself, of the great Charlie Parker and Miles Davis and Bud Powell – liked to call the Dixieland revivalists 'mouldy figs'." I suggest that the narrow textual scholars, who view the Bard as just another jobbing hack, may threaten his iconic status more than committed "resenters": critics who still grant to Shakespeare an enormous, culture-shaping power. "Ideological contrariness," he half-agrees, "may in some ways be preferable to sheer mental defectiveness, as in Mr Carey and Mr Wells. And I'm delighted to be quoted."

A soliloquy from "Bloom Brontosaurus Bardolater" in full vituperative flight is a wonder to behold. At times you think not so much of jovial, roistering Falstaff in the Eastcheap tavern as forsaken Lear on the heath or even fulminating Timon at his misanthropic banquet. Then some shaft of self-parodic wit shines through ("I'm a temperamental old monster"), and the thunderclouds roll away. The Shakespeare book, its rhythms rooted in decades of Yale seminars, captures this Bloomian meteorology in all its glory. Fury (with critics) and awe (at Shakespeare) race across its sky.

And, listening to Bloom's serpentine sentences uncoil on the tape, I sometimes imagined that those eminent New Yorkers, Henry James and Woody Allen, had met in a Manhattan bar and decided to join forces. Here's Bloom on the vaulting visions that torment Macbeth: "What I call his proleptic imagination – his over-anticipation and always jumping ahead of the event – would seem to indicate that, as was evidently the case with Mr D H Lawrence, Macbeth also – although I never put it bluntly in the book – *comes too early*, my dear."

Bloom lavishes a lot of care on the unvoiced sexual tensions that throb behind the lines. As he moves from play to play, these implicit "foregrounds" form a crucial part of his argument. He claims that Shakespeare "invents" the defining *modes* of our modern consciousness through "a concourse of men and women unmatched in the rest of literature". Politics and language may not have determined us (as the "resenters" claim), but Shakespeare has.

Bloom's sensitivity to absences and silences extends from the plays to the life. His book says darkly that Shakespeare "carries a private affliction, an erotic vastation, into the high tragedies". Come again? Bloom deciphered thinks that the playwright who eased off after the "creative ecstasy" of the great tragedies was "suffering from syphilis. I hint at it strongly. Had I actually said it, Mr Wells and Mr Carey and the other boobies would be even more hysterical." Now there's a conversation stopper for that Oscar-evening chat about *Shakespeare in Love* (which Bloom found an "enjoyable travesty", though he deems Joe Fiennes far too cute for balding Will).

The arch Bardolater seems less sure about public attitudes than private maladies. "Shakespeare, so far as I can see, had no politics and no religion," although a well-grounded fear of state repression pushed him into conformity. Bloom accepts Charles Nicholl's argument (in *The Reckoning*) that thugs hired by the Elizabethan secret service terminated the triple agent Christopher Marlowe "with extreme prejudice" in a Deptford pub. "He had seen the murder of Marlowe, and the horrible torture of Thomas Kyd, involving the breaking of every finger in Kyd's writing hand."

So the dramatist, whatever his secret convictions, became "very clever about avoiding blasphemy... There are outward politics and inward politics. My outward politics in the US are on the left wing, if it still exists, of the Democratic Party. Inwardly, I'm a sheer anarcho-syndicalist." And, on the religious front, "a gnostic sect of one".

Gnosticism – the deep-rooted heresy that supplants a personal deity and His dogmas and priests in favour of the "mortal god" within each questing soul – runs like an occult refrain through many of Bloom's 24 books. He came to maturity, after all, in a theological milieu a world away from the tepid pieties of the Ivy League campus.

This Falstaffian champion of traditional EngLit, this proud heir to Samuel Johnson and William Hazlitt, spoke Yiddish before he spoke English. "People sometimes find my English odd because it's self-taught, by reading. I grew up in the old East Bronx with Yiddish-speaking parents, and we spoke only Yiddish at home." Bloom saw his first Shakespeare on New York's Yiddish stage even before, in 1946, he was "ravished for ever" by Ralph Richardson's Falstaff in an Old Vic touring production.

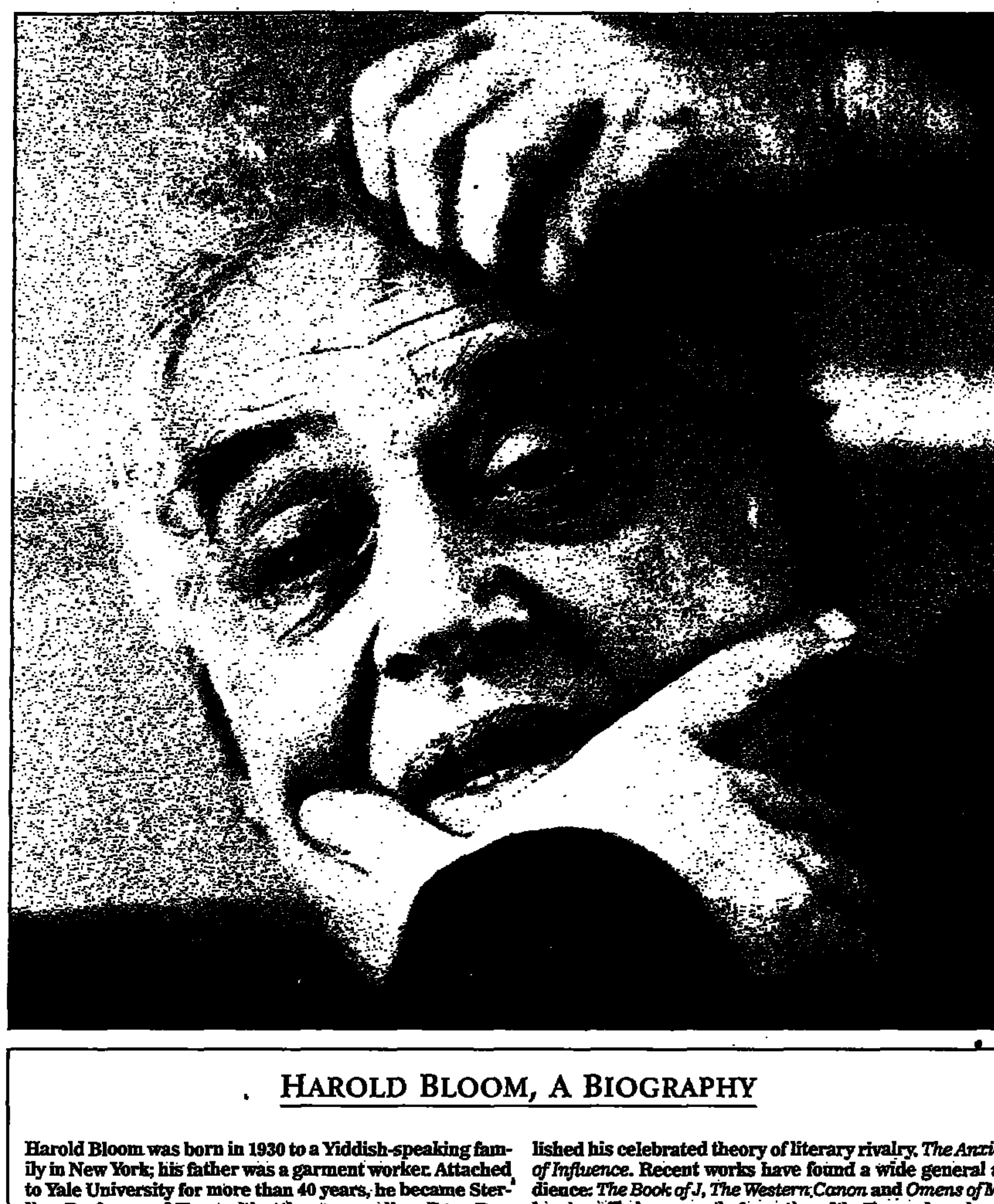
Up in the Bronx, young Bloom read "with a Talmudic speed and a Talmudic retentiveness... I was, when I was barmitzvahed, already in violent arguments with the orthodox rabbis." The gnostic heresy, which sees man as the quasi-divine author of himself, underpins the Bloomian position on Jesus, "a Jewish gnostic", on Milton, and on the great Romantic bards who fed his theory of strong poets striving with their precursors to overcome "the anxiety of influence". As for Shakespeare, "the actual *fellow may have gotten himself* confessed and died in the odour of sanctity." Yet his brood of self-creating titans, from Richard III through Hamlet to Prospero, occupy a bleak landscape that "verges on nihilism".

In this Bloomian world, gigantic literary figures clash by night with one another and a pitiless Nature. His roll-call of defiant rebels might take as their general Milton's seductive Satan – based, he now believes, on Iago. To his critics' ears, it all sounds too much like a boys' own story. In the 1970s and 1980s, he unsurprisingly reports, Bloom had "a terribly hard time with my feminist students". Now, intriguingly, he says "the worst of those difficulties have vanished in these apocalyptic Nineties".

What has not vanished is the high, vexatious drama of the Bloomian struggle, on page and podium alike. He recalls that, after a series of lectures at Princeton in 1995, a panel of academic "ideologues" had baited him. "Lisa Jardine of London ended her denunciation by shaking her fist and crying out, on behalf of the feminist critics of the world, 'we'll stop interrupting you, Harold, when you start paying attention to us'." He then "manifested restraint and stared at the ceiling": a Lear-like pattern of all patience.

Now, "Lisa Jardine of London" remembers a much more genial affair. Her notes record that, just before that peroration, she had pleaded that "the only hope" for the survival of any version of aesthetic value "lies in a dialogue between us". After that, Professor Jardine reports, "He laughed and I laughed, and we all went out to dinner."

Goneril with Lear? Or Beatrice with Benedick? A matter of perspective, perhaps; but also a sign that the stupendous hurricane of Bloom's eloquence can never blow through a vacuum. Memory-enhanced or not, the folly or rancour of "boobies and mouldy figs and academic careerists of all kinds" seem to push him to the peaks of his expository zeal. As a young adept of High Romantic verse, Bloom spent the early 1960s immersed in William Blake. And it was Blake, after all, who said that "without contraries is no progression".


Kalpesh Lathigra

HAROLD BLOOM, A BIOGRAPHY

Harold Bloom was born in 1930 to a Yiddish-speaking family in New York; his father was a garment worker. Attached to Yale University for more than 40 years, he became Sterling Professor of Humanities there, as well as Berg Professor of English at New York University. The first of 24 books, *Shelley's Mythmaking*, appeared in 1959; and in 1973 he published his celebrated theory of literary rivalry, *The Anxiety of Influence*. Recent works have found a wide general audience: *The Book of J*, *The Western Canon* and *Omens of Millennium*. *Shakespeare: the Invention of the Human* has already sold 116,000 copies. Harold Bloom lives with his wife, Jeanne, near the Yale campus in New Haven, Connecticut.

COVER STORIES

MONDAY (INTERNATIONAL Women's Day) sees the publication of two talked-about books by talked-about women: Germaine Greer's *The Whole Woman* and La Lewinsky's *Monica's Story*, told with a little help from Andrew Morton, a man so used to hearing confessions one wonders why he doesn't enter the priesthood (though that would require secrecy). Both have high-profile tours, the Greer circus kicking off with a party at the British Library. Genuine invitees will be admitted only if they are wearing the lapel pin that adorns the cover: a Polynesian fertility symbol. Lewinsky (who told ABC's Barbara Walters that she at first thought history's most notorious stain was spinach souffle) steps out for a signing at Harrods. But how much more appropriate it would have been to have launched at Davidoff's, makers of awfully good cigars.

◆

MEANWHILE, GERI Halliwell is putting the finishing touches to her memoir on her life as a Spice Girl, which agent Mark Lucas has shown to a handful of publishers. He is emphasising it's a serious book, claiming that there's more to Geri than meets the eye. The word is that it is quite well written, and all her own work. However, there is nervousness over whether a book by someone whose prime audience is pre-teen can sell enough copies to recoup a £500,000 advance. Nobody is sure, but a decision is expected early next week and the hot money is on Michael Joseph, part of the Penguin Group, where publisher Tom Weldon is flourishing the company chequebook.

◆

SO FAR, this is Beryl Bainbridge's year. On Tuesday, she collected the £10,000 W H Smith Award for *Master Georgie* – her third bauble in as many weeks, although she stressed that "at my time of life I don't take these things too seriously." Always magnanimous, she said everyone on the shortlist would have made worthy winners. Presumably, Julian Barnes, who refused to attend unless he could be told he had definitely won, would have been less generous.

◆

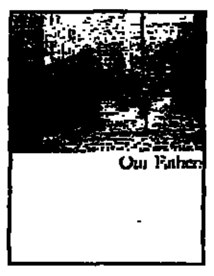
THE MODERN Library, in which Virago founder Carmen Callil and novelist Colm Toibin choose the best 200 novels in English since 1950, will be published on World Book Day. However, they have only been able to agree on 194. Readers are to be invited to nominate the last half-dozen for the paperback. Knowing Callil, it's bound to be a tease: she declared on *Desert Island Discs* she'd no idea that *The Commitments* had started life as a novel. Her next project? A study of Vichy France.

THE LITERATOR

Chips off the old block

Beneath the high-rise estates of urban Scotland lies the enduring land:

Angus Calder acclaims a novel that builds on the foundations of history



Our Fathers
by Andrew O'Hagan
Faber & Faber, £16.99, 282pp

BY ANY standards, *Our Fathers* is a powerful novel. As a first novel, it is very remarkable indeed. Yes, it is in the *bildungsroman* genre favoured by many debutants. Its narrator, Jamie Bawn, is perceived to grow from a lonely, introverted boy, victim of an alcoholic father and easy prey for a wistful homosexual priest, to a man who can take a kind of parental responsibility for his father's father, accept his parents, and envisage parenthood himself.

Like other protagonists in the genre, he is very well read (though his obsessive interest in plants and rocks is unusual). But his family relationships and his imagination are seen in the context of the entire history of south-west Scotland in the 20th century. Andrew O' Hagan offers a vision of immemorial and contemporary time comparable to Lewis Grassic Gibbon's *Scots Quair* trilogy.

I rather think O'Hagan intends that comparison to be made. Don't get me wrong: his rich prose is highly distinctive although, like Gibbon's, it is sometimes a mite precious. With each author, the heightened prose relates to a project of merging individuals with people in general, and both with history and with terrains peculiar to Scotland. In Gibbon, it was the rural north-east; with O'Hagan, industrialised and suburbanised Ayrshire.

One may speak of Old and New Testaments in 20th-century Scottish writing. The New Testament arrived in the 1960s with Alexander Trocchi, Edwin Morgan and Ian Hamilton Finlay. Though not ignorant of Scottish traditions, these men wrote in relation to kinds of foreign modernism, American and European. So with the Glaswegian utterances of Tom Leonard and James Kelman.

O'Hagan, most movingly, returns to the Old Testament – to the Scottish Modernism of Gibbon and MacDiarmid, and back past them to Stevenson and Burns. Jamie's grandmother is saturated in traditional song; his self-educated "granda", Hugh, admires the strenuous, neglected verse of John Davidson. Literary reference in *Our Fathers* is not merely decorative; it is structural. The book ends with a quotation from MacDiarmid's great long poem "On a Raised Beach": "There are ruined buildings in the world, but no ruined stones."

This clinches the novel's immensely ambitious association of abiding Scottish culture with the history of urban redevelopment. The Bawn family stem from Irish Catholic migration into Scotland. But granda's mother Euphemia became "Famie", and famous, leading the great women's Glasgow Rent Strike of 1915, which forced the government to control landlords. She was there in the Movement when John Wheatley swung the Catholic vote on Clydeside over to Labour, creating the basis of the party's dominance in Glasgow.

Famie's son Hugh, a charismatic local politician, saw himself as Wheatley's heir and became Glasgow's "Mr Housing", domesticating Le Corbusier as a Scot and animating the notorious development of the city's high-rise estates.

The grand theme of *Our Fathers* is the tragic nemesis of high-rise architecture. Jamie, based in Liverpool, is employed as an expert on the demolition of tower blocks. Now dilapidated, damp, vandalised, they were once the concretisation of Granda Hugh's Socialist vision – homes in which one could breathe fresh winds, from which one could see for miles.

Since that vision is conveyed with unsentimental sympathy, *Our Fathers* is a welcome corrective to all those fusty acres of print mourning the demise of the squalid tenements which men like Hugh Bawn swept away. For each home to have sunlight and its own toilet was a noble objective. Imputations of "warmth" to the rat-ridden, gang-ridden tenement culture should be viewed with extreme suspicion. But there is indeed a West of Scotland warmth that O'Hagan conveys exceptionally well. His ear for dialogue seems impeccable: never a fuck, so to speak, misplaced.

In the end, however, as with Grassic Gibbon, nothing endures but the land. This book is about how our own lives may stand in relation not only to our parents', but to all the lives lived here before us, and to here itself; to the waters flowing past us, to the rocks beneath us. There are no ruined stones.

J'accuse as latest news

Could a Dreyfus Affair happen in Britain, where prejudice is so polite?

Bryan Cheyette on an update of the scandal that rocked the *fin-de-siècle*

I, Dreyfus
by Bernice Rubens
Little, Brown, £16.99, 278pp

BERNICE RUBENS'S fiction has always been preoccupied with the psychopathology of everyday life. In her early novels, in the 1960s and 1970s, children are condemned to partial lives by their parents (especially mothers) and are unable to function outside families. One of her protagonists refuses to emerge from the womb, another is condemned to live longer than she would like. Rubens's tone is one of black humour as her grotesque characters are invariably pushed to the margins of existence.

In recent years, Rubens – who was born in Cardiff to Russian-Jewish parents – has moved from family life to broader historical concerns. Since the 1980s, her novels have incorporated would-be messiahs and visionary housewives as well as accounts of Jewish persecution and migration in Europe. Encompassing transvestism, psychiatry and brain-transplants, as well as murder and war, she combines whimsy with despair.

I, Dreyfus, her 21st novel, continues these more expansive themes by updating the Dreyfus Affair in France (1894-1906). It is perhaps fitting, as we move into a new era, that a scandal which prefigured the anti-Semitism of the first half of the 20th century should now be re-examined. And the Affair has always been a rich source of inspiration. From Emile Zola on, the wrongful imprisonment of Captain Dreyfus for espionage has resulted in a well-spring of French self-examination. In Britain, alas, we had to rely on Hilaire Belloc and G K Chesterton to confirm that Alfred Dreyfus really was guilty, and those dreadful Republicans got it all wrong. Chesterton's cuddly detective, Father Brown, concludes in this vein in a story published in 1914, eight years after the charges of treason were finally dropped.

Rubens argues, in characteristically bleak terms, that the "Dreyfus syndrome" continues today. Her novel takes the basic ingredients of the Affair (and the name Alfred Dreyfus) and applies them to contemporary English life. In her account, Sir Alfred Dreyfus is a successful educationalist who becomes headmaster of a prestigious public school. His fatal flaw, however, is that he hides his Jewishness in an essentially Christian institution. Like the original Dreyfus, he is finally found guilty of being a Jew.

A good deal of the novel is concerned with the deleterious effects of Jewish assimilation on Dreyfus. His "life of deception" is a result of his parents' refusal to come to terms with the Holocaust and their brush with death in Paris during the war. Dreyfus and his brother, Matthew, are raised in a small English village and become "closet Jews". His career and knighthood turn out to be a false ticket to respectability.

Rubens seems to blame Dreyfus's denial of his Jewishness for an anti-Semitic conspiracy which finds him guilty of child-murder. When his Jewish sister-in-law refuses to support him, and changes her name, she becomes "a nothing, a hollowness in an empty space". Dreyfus's own account from his prison cell, which cleverly alternates with the book's storyline, is really a rediscovery of himself as a Jew: "two thousand years of memory" come flooding back to him and he finally becomes the most pious of Jews. But the continuation of a racial essence over millennia (accompanied by Yiddish lullabies and Hebrew prayers) is precisely what Dreyfus's enemies believe defines "the Jew".

It is a pity to witness the descent into moralising in a novelist with such a refreshingly bizarre imagination. *I, Dreyfus* is divided into good (that is identifying) Jews and bad (that is inhuman) anti-Semites.

Rubens is well aware that in England, as opposed to France or Germany, "anti-Semitism is of the most courteous kind". But much of her energy is focused on the Nazi-like campaign that condemns Dreyfus. Although written with verve, this quest for Atonement (or "At-Onement") results in the end in a rather flat and sentimental reworking of history.

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هكذا من الأصل

Melissa Benn finds that the eternal feminist has cut loose from despair and set sail for Utopia

Courage to go with the flow

Germaine Greer: "the courage to be" *UPPA*

The Whole Woman
by Germaine Greer
Doubleday, £16.99, 352pp

The Whole Woman is not officially published until Monday, but large parts of the nation are already suffering from Germaine Greer overload. The decision by her publishers to tease out publication, offering selected extracts and a sole interview to one newspaper, set the broadsheet pack onto red alert two weeks before release of the book. Few could wait and see what she had written; the commentary inevitably became *ad feminam*. Pages were devoted to her cleverness and contradictions, and her (ir)relevance to everything from British feminism to the kitchen sink.

Now along comes the book, the whole book and nothing but the book. Is anybody still interested? They should be: Greer makes an excitable, exaggerated case that reverses, rather than revises, some comfortable modern assumptions about women. She has repeatedly said she was forced out of a polemicist's retirement to take up the fight for liberation-based feminism against the new equal-rights consensus.

Interestingly, the target of her most ferocious attack – the "new feminism" – makes little appearance in her text. There is the odd, outrageous sideswipe at a "politics that celebrates the right (ie duty) to be pretty in an array of floaty dresses and little suits put together for starvation wages by adolescent girls in Asian sweat shops". But no opponent is given a name or book credit: a strategy of condemnation through obliteration that packs a surprisingly mean punch.

The Whole Woman is essentially a return to the style and substance of *The Female Eunuch*, 28 years ago. It has the same dense but readable format, its chapters organised around meaty subjects with titillating short headlines (sex, breasts, testosterone). And, despite a wealth of contemporary material and a feel for the *zeitgeist*, Greer is still arguing, as that famous sentence from *The Female Eunuch* declared: "Women have very little idea of how much men hate them."

The Whole Woman breaks with the sophisticated consensus that women have made significant progress in any area: work, self-image, health, relations with men, motherhood or politics. Where some of us see change and hope, Greer sees only commercially sponsored sadism. Modern woman's preoccupation with beauty and femininity is, to her, not a sign of "having it all" but just another ugly, expensive twist in the decades-long struggle of capitalism to persuade women that their bodies are distasteful and need taming. Women are not making it in the public world of work and politics. Far from it, they are struggling to ape men and denying their true selves in the process (she is scathing on Blair's Babes).

Motherhood, Greer argues, is hard labour that is effectively ignored by society. She has no time for the new fatherhood either, marshalling her evidence to show how many men are still fleeing their emotional and financial responsibilities. Even an apparently benign development such as screening programmes for cervical cancer is just a new patriarchal invasion of wombs in search of a disease. And the disease is womanhood. (Greer loves to end her chapterlets with such bitingly short sentences.)

Greer has constructed a strip cartoon that pits the forces of brute masculinity against the cowed but perfumed figure of the modern woman. Should we read her as deeply pessimistic or profoundly political? Both, I would argue. She remains one of the few public feminists to show any true grasp of globalisation, international capitalism and the parasitical relationship between first-world women's material comforts and third-world womens' exploitation.

In a funny way, she does not go far enough. In a revised 1992 foreword to *The Female Eunuch*, Greer admitted, in a rare moment of self-criticism, that the book "does not deal with poor women". Yet poor women make not much more of an appearance here.

Greer's true obsession is with the politics of the body rather than the body politic. She is lyrical and expansive on the meaning of the womb and the colour and taste of menstrual blood, but clipped and cursory on wages and work and the new revolution in information technology. Like the good socialist that she is, she knows how important the economy is – but the details bore her.

Her real power depends on a submerged but starkly emotional vision of human relations, a bleak image of a permanent non-meeting between the sexes and the generations. "Love of the father, love of the partner, love of the child, all remain for the vast majority of women unrequited." I think we should take this largely as a statement about Greer herself. Certainly, it shows little awareness of the nuances of real life, both personal and political. There are thousands of relationships where love and hate are more finely balanced than she would allow and where there is constant negotiation over the question of "work". Many women feel greatly loved by the father, the husband, by sons and daughters.

But the significance of Greer's absolute pessimism is that it finally frees her to a kind of utopianism. She has gone beyond hopelessness into some mad reckless territory where anything is possible. Hence her quarrel with the wishful thinking of younger women.

It's as if Greer wags her finger at us all, speaking the words from Dante's Inferno, "in the middle of the journey of our life I came by myself in a dark wood where the straight way was lost". There are tragedies and rejections ahead for us all, which will show us there is no straight way. One of the best chapters is on the comforts and logic of sorrow. "Sadness is the matrix from which wit and irony spring… which is why consumer society cannot tolerate it." Nor, it has to be said, can modern feminism.

So Germaine leaves us with everything and nothing to lose. She batters us over the head with her much-favoured distinction between liberation and equality. For her, liberation is the pleasure principle made ideology; equality is a kind of mealy-mouthed conformism. Greer wants the former, but it doesn't offer much to women in professions or supermarkets.

Liberation to do what? Go to work smelling like a real woman? A life gloriously alone? A life on benefits? One of her few, welcome suggestions is that society recognises that motherhood is a real job and pay for it accordingly.

What will most women get from this book? It is, I suspect, what we get from Greer herself, a chance to throw off the fear that comes from trying too hard. From *The Female Eunuch*, Greer has been saying the same thing: be yourself, take the flak, speak your mind, change your mind. It is an injunction she has followed herself, in her mouthy, maddening career as public personality.

Few older women are taken seriously in public culture. Few are taken much notice of at all. Despite, or perhaps because of the inner bleakness, Greer is. She is an example of what the theologian Paul Tillich has called the "courage to be". In that sense, all those quick to comment before they had read this book were grasping something after all. Greer's written words may be less important now than her symbolism, and publication a distraction from the whole woman we see so often before us.

Beasts and the blonde

Carole Angier admires a daughter's search for parents who buried their tragic past

Losing the Dead
by Lisa Appignanesi
Chatto & Windus. £15.99. 232pp

LISA APPIGNANESI arrived in Montreal in 1951, three years after me. She wasn't called Appignanesi then, and I wasn't called Angier. My parents were not survivors: they had made it to England just in time. Their war stories were about the Blitz, and the Pioneer Corps, and never speaking German.

In Montreal, I did not encounter (although they did) any overt anti-Semitism. Yet the destruction of six million of us was still too close for comfort. I seized the chance to flee my Jewishness eagerly. My friends were rarely Jewish, my boyfriends never; and as soon as I could, I changed my name.

Lisa Appignanesi's name then was Borenstein. Her parents were not survivors either: at least not in the main sense of that term. They had not been in a concentration camp; but they had been in Poland. They had survived the war in a much rarer, though not unique way: by passing themselves off as Aryans. *Losing the Dead* is their story.

Or rather, it is Lisa's telling of their story, through their memories and her own. And that's what makes it so interesting. It's not just the account of a terrible, triumphant adventure but also an exploration of its costs and effects; of memory, ideology, and growing up Jewish in Quebec.

The book begins with that, and it's the very best part. It brought Quebec back to me like Proust's madeleine – Esplanade Avenue, outside staircases, French kids with false teeth at 18 (from drinking Pepsi, Canada's Coke: that's why we called them pepsis, a meanness Lisa does not mention). Slowly, the Polish objects disappear, and Canadian ones take over; linen gives way to Formica, china and crystal to pottery and plastic.

But the Polish past does not give way to the Canadian present: Lisa's mother Hena had saved her family from the Final Solution by lies and charm, by relying on her instinct and blonde beauty. Her husband, Aron, dark and male, condemned by his own body the moment he dropped his trousers, could only follow and fear.

Now teenage Lisa cringes when her mother flirts with the doctor, cares only about looks, surrounds their peaceful suburban life with an intricate web of lies.

She cannot understand her father's sweating terror when they cross the Canadian border, she rages against his anti-German prejudice, she takes German courses, she makes German friends, she becomes "a whole reconciliation process in myself". She cannot bear those endlessly repeated stories; she doesn't want to know.

Later, of course, she did want to know. She goes back to Poland, she ransacks her memory, her brother's, her mother's; and in the second part of the book, she retrieves those hated stories.

This part is important. We should know these rarer truths, about Jews outside the camps, and their Polish helpers. But, as writing, it lacks the lived and layered intensity of the first.

What is profound and tragic about this book is its portrait of the internalisation of ideology by its victims (the blonde master, the dark slave); and of the impossibility of sharing memory, except destructively, until it is too late. By the time Lisa Appignanesi wrote *Losing the Dead*, her father had died and her mother's mind was going. But it is a powerful and tender memorial to both of them. The blurb suggests that Lisa's key relationship was with bold blonde Hena. But I think it was with Aron, who was dark like her: the emblematic emigrant, always in a hurry, always secretly afraid.

Carole Angier is completing a biography of Primo Levi

Wiping the floor with the lads in tight genes

Given half a chance, argues **Anna McGrail**, women have a better evolutionary reason for sexual promiscuity than men. Given half a chance...

Woman: an intimate geography
by Natalie Angier
Little, Brown. £17.99. 432pp

WOMEN "MOSTLY ignore what science has to say to them and about them," says Natalie Angier, Pulitzer-Prize-winning science writer for the *New York Times*. Hardly surprising, perhaps, if the main conclusion of the biological sciences seems to be that millions of years of evolution have rendered us genetically incapable of reversing into a parking space.

To redress the balance, Angier takes us on a geographical tour of the female body: she guides us through the ecosytem of the vagina, explores the facts and fictions of the breasts and muses upon the metaphors of the menses. She traces our development from a fetus through to the menopause, examining the minute (X chromosome) and the large (our interpretation of ourselves in contemporary history). The question she sets is "What makes a woman?" and she looks for answers in, among other places, physiology, genetics and endocrinology. This is an ambitious book, but we have a guide whose enthusiasm draws us along at an unflagging pace. Assuming her readers will mainly be women, she shouts, "Come on, gals!" and we're off.

New vantage points, even for the stray males at the back, are always refreshing, and these Angier constantly provides. Women seeking medical help to conceive, for example, have found their gametes briskly defined: a woman is born with all the eggs she will ever have and they "degenerate" from then. A man, on the other hand, can produce several thousand new sperm every hour! As Angier points out, "The mere ability to replicate is hardly cause for a standing ovation." It is something within the egg itself, she reminds us, which effected Dolly the sheep, maternal factors which allowed the adult genome to recapitulate itself. The egg holds the secrets of genesis and this may be why women no longer produce new eggs in adulthood. It is not a deficiency, but a sign of our molecular complexity.

Angier throws out theories "like rice at a bride", but each grain challenges the dominant paradigms. Menopause, for example, can be interpreted as an evolutionary necessity. Without grandmothers to get on with the gathering while the hunters were splendidly hunting, *homo sapiens* would not have had the calorific dowry to invest in intelligence and become very *sapiens*.

During this adventure, we construct a relief map of liberation biology as we go. Women do not have to be mired in "the sludge of biological determinism." We have choices, especially as to the boundaries of control over our bodies, whether that line is at HRT, abortion or breastfeeding. Nevertheless, this is not so much a tale of X versus Y, although the female body is still a battleground, but a celebration of every woman's glorious anatomy and chemistry. The author's passion for the joyful mysteries of our geography shines through every sentence.

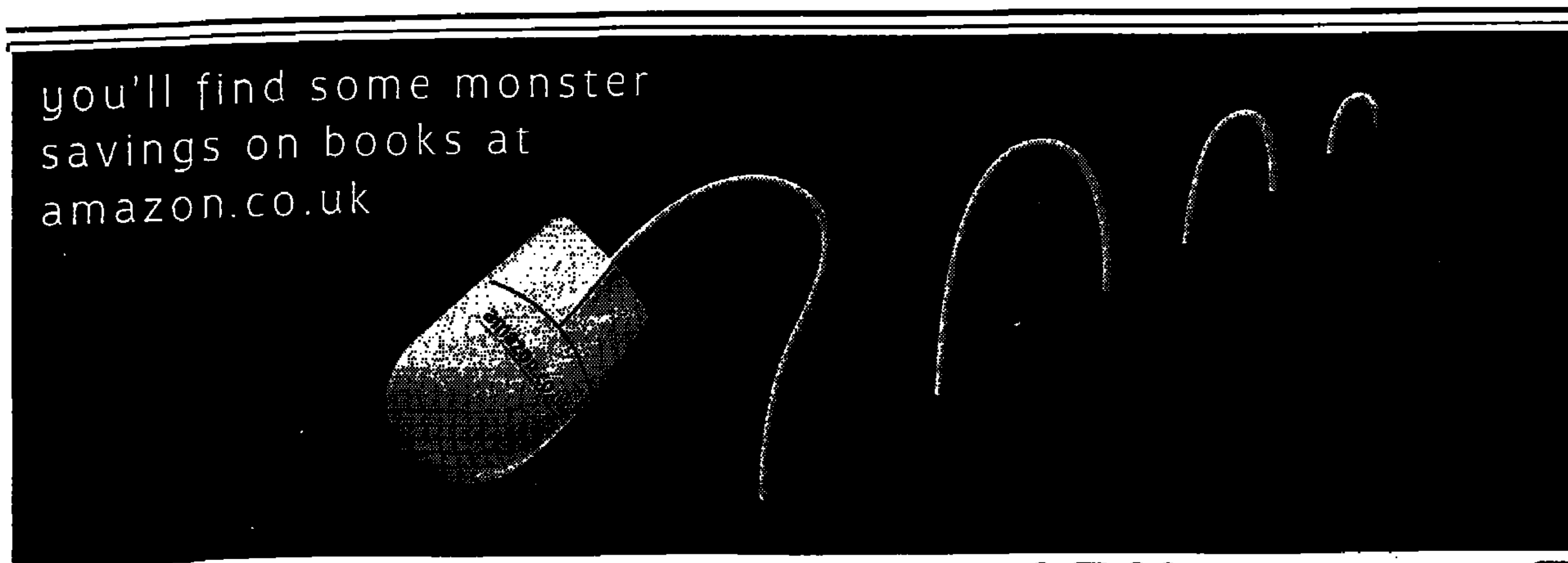
If, in the 1970s, we clutched our copies of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* and examined our genitals with a mirror, now is the time to praise the vagina as "a pause between the declarative sentence of the outside world and the mutterings of the viscera". We might as well rhapsodise oestrogen as "a structural tone poem" rather than a plain old hormone, as we don't understand how it works.

As Angier strips away the layers of myth that have built up between Galen and Grafenberg, we discover how much of our terrain is unexplored. Some scientific studies into gender differences, our guide points out tartly, are in such a mess that they are "like the floor underneath your refrigerator: you don't want to know". This is a salutary reminder in an age when certain truths are held to be self-evident: that men are programmed to be promiscuous while women sit at home under the influence of the SSEN (Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice) gene and hold out for monogamy.

Such truths are not self-evident when, as Angier does, you "run them through the meat grinder of analysis". A prime determinant of behaviour is the calculation of our best chances of throwing our garland of genes into the future. Reproductively speaking, liaising with a single mate might be a better bet for a male. And if female sexuality is really so feeble, why have societies gone to such lengths to control it, in marriage, purdah, infibulation?

Women do not need to orgasm to reproduce, so why has Nature given us a clitoris? In the past, it may have been much larger, and female primates may have used its erotic energy to take them through multiple sexual encounters with any available males (so that's why it takes us so long!) in a quest for satisfaction. Such behaviour has a Darwinian justification: female promiscuity pays in terms of higher conception rates. Given half a chance, we human females might be as opportunistic as our bonobo or chimpanzee cousins. Given half a chance.

The basis for our behaviour seems to lie less in our genomes than in the ecological circumstances in which that genome expresses itself. Wanton behaviour is not such a useful adaptation any more: it can get you stoned to death. Some evolutionary biologists believe that the clitoris is, in fact, still diminishing from want of use. There's a challenge: can we form a society to save the clitoris? Or shall we just stand here and scream? Come on, gals!



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INSPIRATIONS

NOVELIST GEOFF NICHOLSON

The Place
I find any stretch of bleak desert wasteland fairly wonderful, in some ways the more anonymous the better, but I'll go for Zzyzx, a former health resort, now a ghost town in the Mojave desert, a few miles outside Barstow, California. It has palm trees, wind-blown sand, curious abandoned buildings and empty swimming pools. It could be sinister, yet I find it totally comforting and reassuring.

The music
Willie the Pimp by Frank Zappa with Captain Beefheart on vocals. This has everything: great lyrics, a fabulous blues vocal and a great skronking extended electric guitar solo. Harold Bloom says that all great art is strange, and of course that doesn't mean that all strange art is great, but there's something about the early stuff of Zappa and Beefheart that still seems as weird and radical as it ever did.

The Film
After Hours by Martin Scorsese. This seems to me an infinitely more honest film than all of Scorsese's homoerotic hymns to violent men who swear a lot. Griffin Dunne wanders around nocturnal New York, pursuing a woman, being pursued by vigilantes, having the sort of edgy, scary, sexy adventures we all dream of having in New York, but are actually rather relieved to avoid. It's a comedy and so our hero survives but you realise how easily he might not.

The Play
Hamlet was the first bit of Shakespeare I ever really understood and enjoyed. It's a great play to discover when you're an adolescent – all that teenage angst, all that beautiful suffering. Every 17-year-old lad who's having trouble with the parents and school and girlfriends knows exactly how Hamlet feels. More than any other play I can think of, I carry my own version of *Hamlet* in my head and no production is ever as good as that.

The work of art
Le Violin d'Ingres. This is Max Ernst's photograph of Kiki de Montparnasse, who has two f-holes collaged into her naked back. There are years when this seems an unacceptably sexist piece of work, other years when it seems sexy, respectful and playful. We "borrowed" the idea for the cover of my novel *Flesh Guitar*, but we made the violin an electric guitar and instead of f-holes we had pick ups and a tremelo arm.

Geoff Nicholson's new novel, 'Female Ruins', is published by Indigo (£9.99)

PAPERBACKS

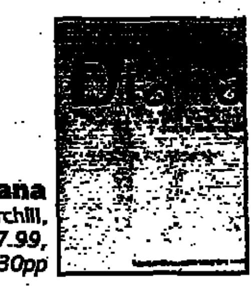
BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

A First Rate Tragedy
by Diana Preston,
Constable, £9.99, 269pp

THE FAMILIAR story of Scott's catastrophic polar slog is given additional psychological depth in Preston's highly accomplished account. Scott emerges as an introspective, humane man, prone to the "black dog" of depression and a belief in his own ill-luck. He expended much effort in drumming up sponsorship from Colman's Mustard and Oxo, though he failed to acquire the dog-handling skills which resulted in Amundsen's triumph. Another 350 yards a day and his party would have survived – but we would have lost a classic tale of British pluck.

Sex and the City
by Candace Bushnell,
Abacus, £6.99, 228pp

THE MOST encouraging thing about Candace Bushnell's book (and the TV series based on it) is that life for 35-year-old singles is one up on being 25 and single. Bushnell's female thirty-somethings are less likely to sleep with the wrong man, wear the wrong clothes or share with the wrong room-mates. Based on her column for the *New York Observer*, Bushnell's canape-sized bites of Manhattan life stylishly capture a clubbing and dating scene that you might have thought had died out with Nell's and Jay McInerney.



Diana
by Julie Burchill,
Orion, £7.99, 230pp

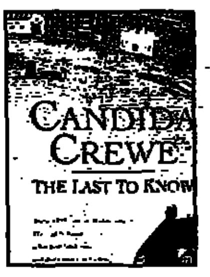
LIKE PIGGING out on Kettle Fries, there is a guilty pleasure in consuming Burchill's prose. Irresistibly moreish but mad, this is both a love letter to the most beautiful girl in the class and a no-holds-barred rubbishing of the monarchy ("that monumental blockage in the S-bend of public life"). Diana's excesses, such as the £3,000 a week (excluding clothes) she spent keeping up appearances, are excused, while Charles is lambasted: "Against him, a sloth would have looked wonderful". The flaw in Burchill's thesis is that without the royals, there would have been no Diana.

Royal Whodunnits
edited by Mike Ashley,
Robinson, £6.99, 434pp

THESE TWO dozen tales about dark doings within palace walls are painfully bathetic. In a "prequel" to the Scottish play, we learn how Macbeth "allowed a smile to spread across his features" after committing a grisly murder. Such an improvement on Shakespeare's effort. At the court of Richard II, amateur sleuth Geoffrey Chaucer vows, "I will do my best to bring the truth of this affair to light." But this is trumped by Queen Victoria's attempt to save an eminent subject: "You do not look like a murderer of populations, Mr Brunel." Right royal twaddle.

The Ogre's Laboratory
by Louis Buss,
Vintage, £6.99, 393pp

THIS DARK spinechiller features the appropriately named Father Snow, a priest and historian who is posted to a Surrey backwater. Prone to hypnagogic visions, Snow finds that the local stately home is imbued by the spirit of a medieval Moloch called Everard Trevellyn, whose grisly doings he uncovers in the British Museum. Evidence of paedophile activities in the locality suggests that the ogre's baneful influence is till active across the centuries. Despite the obvious debt to Peter Ackroyd, Buss has produced a stylish, disturbing work, its terrors softened by his hero's awkward passion for a local journalist.



The Last to Know
by Candida Crewe,
Arrow, £5.99, 264pp

ONE WET weekday evening, Oxford GP Kim Black pops out to the corner shop for some ice cream. He doesn't come home. His wife Sylvie is left with two pieces of curling haddock, and an empty bed. A slim-line plot, but one that Candida Crewe keeps happily bubbling away. An author with a sharp and quirky eye for domestic detail, Crewe builds up a seductively cosy picture of the Black's life in Cowley, and an intimate history of their 20-year marriage. Not a story of town and gown, this novel travels well beyond Oxford as Kim embarks on a series of unlikely journeys around Britain.

Book
by Whoopi Goldberg,
Warner, £5.99, 273pp

IN 25 short chapters, actress, comedian and all-round Clinton groupie, Whoopi Goldberg sounds off on Race, Farting (her favourite topic) and presidential zippers. Like Roseanne, she wears her liberal credentials writ large, as she rails full volume against exploitative chat show hosts and the sinister activities of multinationals. Her pet peeves include men who return from restaurant rest rooms with urine speckled chinos and being referred to as an Afro-American. Yes, the world would be a happier place if we all let it rip; and yes, she is named Whoopi after the Cushion.

Dinosaur Days
by Jill Laurimore,
Penguin, £5.99, 339pp

FLISS AND Ivor Harley-Wright are on their uppers, their Suffolk pile sinking into its moat. Their one hope of rescue lies in the sale of their only asset – a collection of Commemorative Drinking Vessels. All they have to do is treat an American lawyer, New York control-freak Tom Klaus, to a weekend in the country. An accomplished mid-Atlantic farce, there are some awkward moments as the Harley-Wrights roll out the red carpet, and several balls of labrador hair, inhonour of their very influential guest. A first novel by a writer who is supremely comfortable in other folks' wellies.

BESTSELLERS

Published in the same week, John Grisham's *The Testament* and *Come Together* by Josie Lloyd and Emlyn Rees have battled it out for the top slot for the past three weeks. Grisham had maintained a slight lead until this week when Lloyd and Rees have finally toppled him – but only just. *Station X* stays at the top of the non-fiction chart for the third week running: *Men are From Mars...* remains at number two for the fifth week, while Lillian Too's *Little Book of Feng Shui* has hovered at number three or four for five weeks too.

Compiled by Bookwatch from data supplied on sales over seven days ending 28 February 1999

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ORIGINAL FICTION

	TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
1 (2)	**Come Together**	Josie Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	7,181
2 (1)	**The Testament**	John Grisham (Century)	£16.99	7,085
3 (3)	**Single & Single**	John le Carre (Hodder)	£16.99	4,279
4 (-)	**Sharpe's Fortress**	Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£16.99	2,971
5 (4)	**The Thursday Friend**	Catherine Cookson (Bantam Press)	£16.99	2,234
6 (-)	**Caroline's Sister**	Sheila O'Flanagan (Poolbeg)	£5.99	1,625
7 (8)	**Liar Birds**	Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1,574
8 (7)	**It Means Mischief**	Kate Thompson (Bantam)	£5.99	1,319
9 (5)	**Messiah**	Boris Starling (HarperCollins)	£5.99	1,210
10 (6)	**Southern Cross**	Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown)	£16.99	1,183

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

	TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
1 (1)	**Station X: the codebreakers**	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	£14.99	4,132
2 (2)	**Men Are From Mars...**	John Gray (Thorsons)	£8.99	3,400
3 (4)	**Little Book of Feng Shui**	Lillian Too (Element)	£1.99	2,379
4 (3)	**The Year 1000**	Robert Lacey & Danny Danziger (Little, Brown)	£12.99	2,125
5 (7)	**Seafood Odyssey**	Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	2,098
6 (-)	**Delia's How to Cook**	Delia Smith (BBC)	£16.99	1,627
7 (6)	**Ground Force Workbook**	Alan Titchmarsh (BBC)	£9.99	1,559
8 (9)	**Official ITV Formula One Guide**	Bruce Jones (Carlton)	£9.99	1,447
9 (5)	**Birthday Letters**	Ted Hughes (Faber)	£14.99	1,432
10 (8)	**Notes from a Big Country**	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	£16.99	885

SPOKEN WORD

BY CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

A Patchwork Planet
read by David Morse
Random House, 5hrs, £12.99

THERE'S AN old country-and-western song called "Gentle on My Mind" which sums up the subtle charm of Anne Tyler's novels: you feel the wiser for reading, or in this case, hearing them. David Morse's husky, resigned voice is the perfect medium for Barnaby Gaitlin, supposedly the black sheep of a philanthropic family, in fact the only one of them to have a true understanding of kindness. Miraculously (and this is a book about angels), he and an endearing cast of needy but sassy wrinklies show us how to cope with the inevitable imperfections of the world.

Cold Comfort Farm
read by Eileen Atkins
Penguin, 3hrs, £8.99

ALTHOUGH FEW people now read Mary Webb, the author whom Stella Gibbons was parodying in *Cold Comfort Farm*, the book remains an evergreen classic. It seems a shame to miss a word of it, but this is an exceptionally successful abridgement, guaranteed to dissipate the most recalcitrant gloom. Eileen Atkins thoroughly enjoys herself as she reads Flora Poste's lines with brisk, Roedean-accented competence, smoulders as Seth, preaches hellfire as Amos and querulously complains of "something nasty in the woodshed" as matriarch Ada Doom.

Next Week: Michael Bywater profiles the human face; Christina Patterson interviews Edwidge Danticat; and Miranda Seymour seeks the truth about Pontius Pilate

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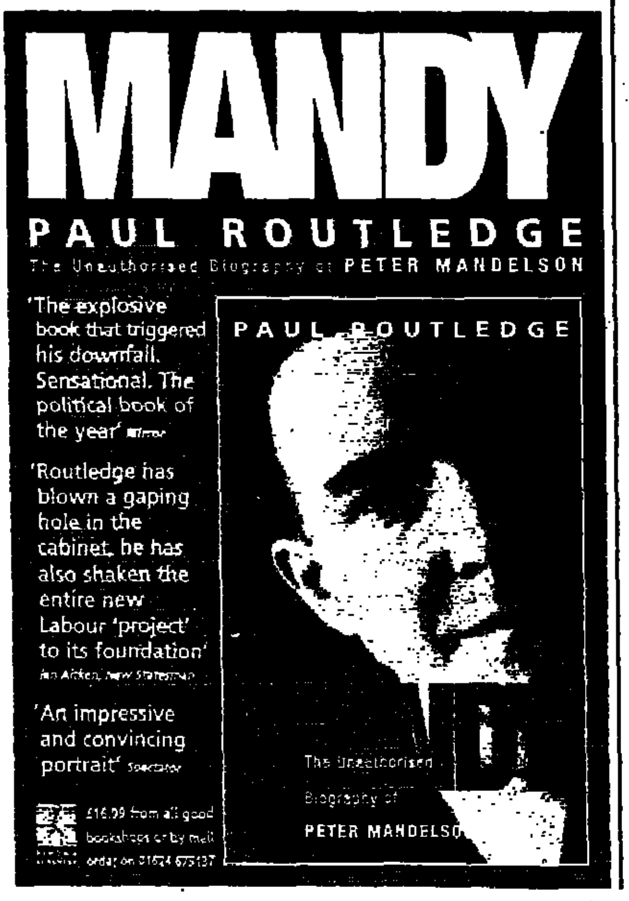

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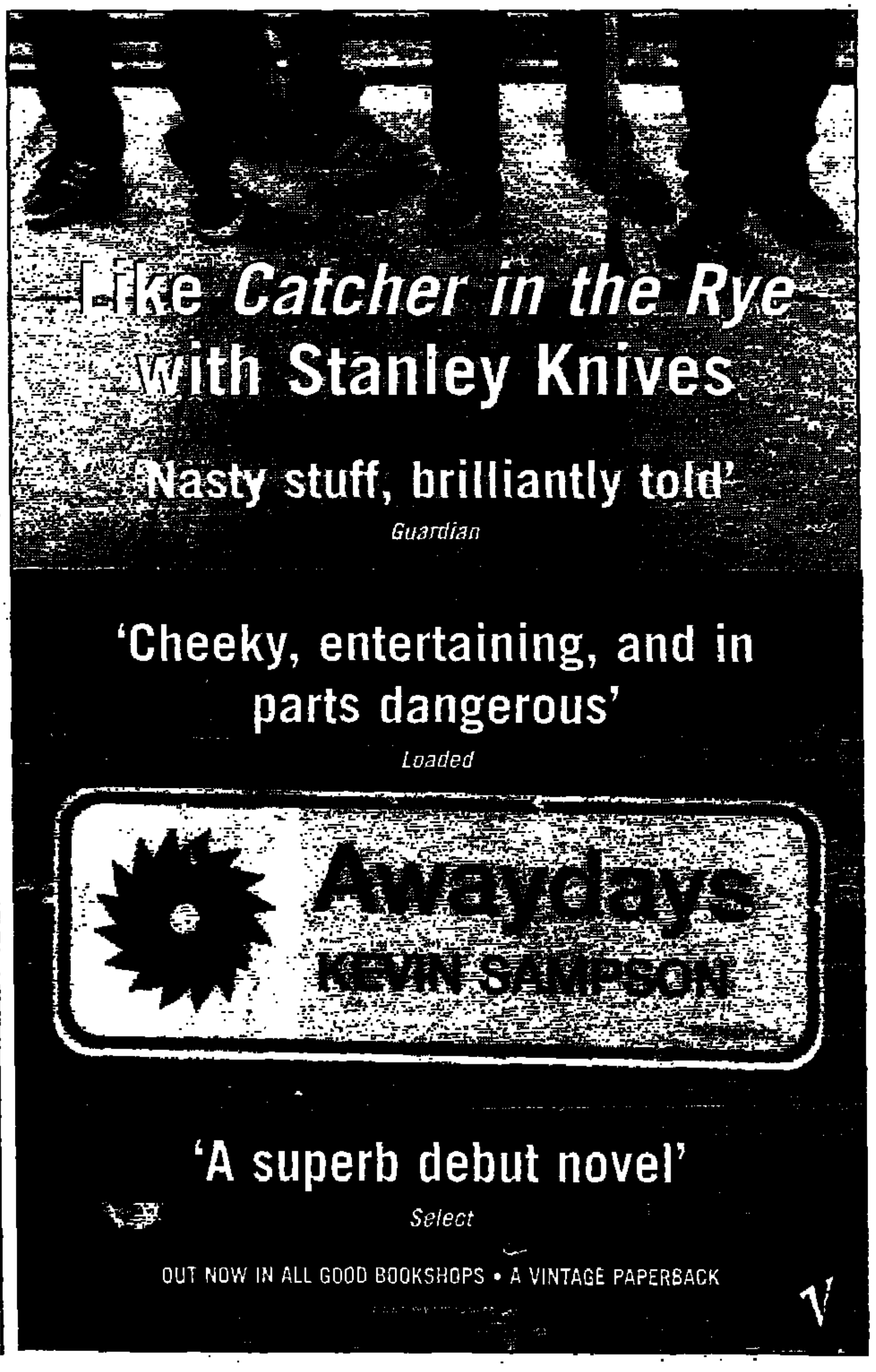

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاعمال

Sarah van Niekerk takes about a week to carve a wood engraving block. The finished block goes under a cast-iron press and then prints can be run off *John Lawrence*

Mistress of an ancient art

COUNTRY MATTERS

DUFF HART-DAVIS

How excellent to find that the ancient art of wood engraving is alive and well, and flourishing particularly in the hamlet of Priding, on the bank of the Severn south of Gloucester. There dwells Sarah van Niekerk, a most skilful latter-day practitioner.

She wanted to be a farmer, but her father and mother – writer and painter respectively – discouraged that ambition, and sent her to art school instead. From the start she concentrated on engraving, and at the Central School of Arts and Crafts her principal teacher was Gertrude Hermes. Since then she has gone from strength to strength: now in her sixties, winner of many awards, she has held a dozen solo exhibitions and is widely admired as a teacher.

Together with her husband Chris (also an artist), she lives in a long, narrow house hard by the river, surrounded by walls designed to repel flood tides, and in particular the Severn bore. The building is allegedly founded on three sunken trows, or Severn barges, and she has been happy to accept this tradition without exploratory excavation.

She feels that English wood engravers, herself included, are still very much in thrall to Thomas Bewick, the celebrated printmaker and illustrator who flourished in Northumberland at the end of the 18th century, specialising in birds, animals and landscapes. "We have this ghost of Bewick sitting on our shoulders," she says. "I don't know any English engraver who's managed to get away from it completely."

Certainly her own work is strongly pastoral: she takes many of her subjects from nature, and excels at catching – in black and white – the varied textures of leaves and grass and stone walls, of animals' hides and birds' feathers. Indeed, she regards wood engraving as "part of the whole ethic of country living".

She has only to look out of the window beside her work bench to find inspiration. Recently an enormous flock of lapwings began working the tidal estuary, and, after much gloomy talk about lapwing disappearing, she was delighted to see them. "They're magic to watch," she says, "especially when the sun's shining. The black and white flash is almost like silver paper." The result: a beautiful small engraving of two peewits wheeling above a big S-bend of water.

There is a key difference between wood cutting, in which the artist works along the grain, and wood engraving, in which he or she cuts across it. The second is by far the finer, more detailed form, so that engravings tend to be smaller. The best blocks are made of boxwood, which is exceptionally hard, close-grained and heavy. Every block is composed of small cubes glued together to form a square or rectangle, of which one side is planed and sanded, leaving a surface almost as smooth as marble.

Such raw material is far from cheap: boxwood blocks cost from £1 to £1.80 per square inch, so that a medium-sized one, six inches by eight, can come out at the best part of £100. Boxwood does not take kindly to being left in sunlight or on radiators – it buckles – but if properly treated will survive indefinitely, not least because it is poisonous and so impervious to woodworm.

Many engravers, Americans especially, now work on plastic – but that, to Sarah, is an unrewarding medium. "I *hate* plastic," she says. "It's far too slithery. There's something absolutely wonderful about engraving on wood: the marvellous crunching." Ranged on her work bench is a set of specialised tools like tiny chisels – a scorper, a spitsticker, a tint-tool and a graver or burin. To a layman they all look much the same, with devilishly sharp points, but each has its particular role.

The start of any engraving is a series of drawings. "Because you're working to a set size, you need to re-draw and re-draw and re-draw to get the composition right," she says. "The risk is that this may deaden the picture, so you have to make a conscious effort to keep the drawing lively."

She traces the finished sketch on to the block through transfer paper – and away she goes, obviously cutting with care, but sometimes also at speed. "It's often much better if you do fly at it," she says. "That way you get a bit of spontaneity going." The finished block – the result of at least a week's solid work – goes under a mighty, cast-iron press dating from 1840 – and as many prints can be run off as are needed for an edition.

Every cut an engraver makes lets light into the picture. As one beginner said, "You feel like God: let there be light, and there is, light!" The penalty is that you cannot afford to make mistakes. Once an area of the surface has been excised, it cannot be replaced.

Boxwood is too expensive for students to learn on. "You must give them something reasonably cheap," says Sarah. "Otherwise they feel they're cutting into a piece of gold." The best alternative is lemon wood – a collective term for several varieties. On a recent course at Dartington Hall in Devon she was amazed by the lack of inhibition with which her 14 learners pitched in, each finishing two or three engravings in the weekend.

She was also surprised by a snippet of news that one of her own pieces elicited. When she showed a print of chickens foraging under maize, somebody came up with the slightly sinister information that pheasants, which normally love maize, will not go near crops grown from genetically modified seed.

Until recently Sarah was Chairman of the Society of Wood Engravers, which has 70 members and organises an annual touring exhibition. This year, after a "tremendously successful" start at the Victoria Gallery in Bath, the show is now in Canterbury. One of its attractions, she finds, is that it is enlivened by engravings from non-members in Eastern Europe and Russia, where artists have broken away from the Bewick tradition into adventurous new fields.

Yet some of her own work is anything but representational. One enjoyable commission was to illustrate books of the Old Testament for a *Reader's Digest* edition of the Bible. She left her depiction of Jonah to the last because she felt it would be the most fun – and sure enough, it is a triumph, with the old boy looking incredibly crafty as he scoots along in the belly of the speeding whale.

The Society of Wood Engravers' exhibition is at the Royal Museum and Art Gallery, High Street, Canterbury, until 13 March

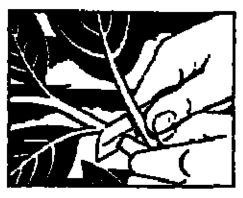
NATURE NOTES

COMMON TOADS hit the headlines earlier this week when their annual migration forced the closure of the village street at Oxton, in Nottinghamshire. Similar mass-movements are taking place all over the country, as the amphibians arouse from winter hibernation and head for their traditional spawning grounds in boggy areas, which can be several kilometres from where they have spent the cold months tucked down under log-piles or in thick undergrowth.

It is the seasonal warming of the air that gets *Bufo bufo* going. Toads tend to set off on their perilous journey when the temperature reaches 5C or more, and unfortunately they prefer to move at dusk – now around 5pm. Since they cannot jump, like frogs, but only hop or walk, they may take 10 minutes to cross a road, which puts them at high risk from rush-hour traffic. In recent years, to minimise casualties, well-wishers such as the charity Froglife have built them 15 underpasses at various danger points.

Adult toads are relatively safe from predators such as foxes because a chemical in their skin makes them foul-tasting; but mortality among tadpoles and toadlets is high, and the last attempt at a census, carried out by volunteer patrols and organised by Froglife in 1996, suggested that the species as a whole is declining.

WEEKEND WORK



ANNA PAVORD

THINGS ARE on the move in the garden. Before they move too far, consider what needs to be pruned:

Abelia: Cut out branches that have died back or been damaged through winter. Make the cut just above a new green shoot. On overgrown bushes, thin out some of the old wood.

Abies: No regular pruning is required but you must not let the tree develop a forked top with two leading shoots. Where this has happened, cut off one of the pair of leaders as close to the main trunk as you can.

Abutilon: On outdoor plants, cut back any dead or damaged shoots. Conservatory plants need tougher treatment if they are not to outgrow their space. Cut back the main branches by half and reduce all the laterals to about 4in.

Berberis: No regular pruning is necessary, but you can cut back long straggly growths where they are in the way. To rejuvenate old, overgrown specimens, take out one or two stems at ground level each year.

Bougainvillea: Best done in February, but if you have forgotten, act now. Shorten all the main growths by a third and cut back all the laterals close to the base. Cut out weak, straggly growths altogether.

Buddleia: Cut all growths back to within a few inches of the old wood.

Campsis: Hard prune this rampant climber by cutting back the previous year's growths to within a few inches of where they started.

Caryopteris: Prune strong growth hard back to new buds at the base. Cut out weak growths altogether.

Chimonanthus: Free-standing shrubs can be left to their own devices. Wall-trained specimens need some pruning. Cut back all the shoots that have flowered to within a few inches of their starting points.

Citrus: No regular pruning is required, but the heads of growth on standards may need shaping. Cut back over dominant shoots to maintain a rounded profile.

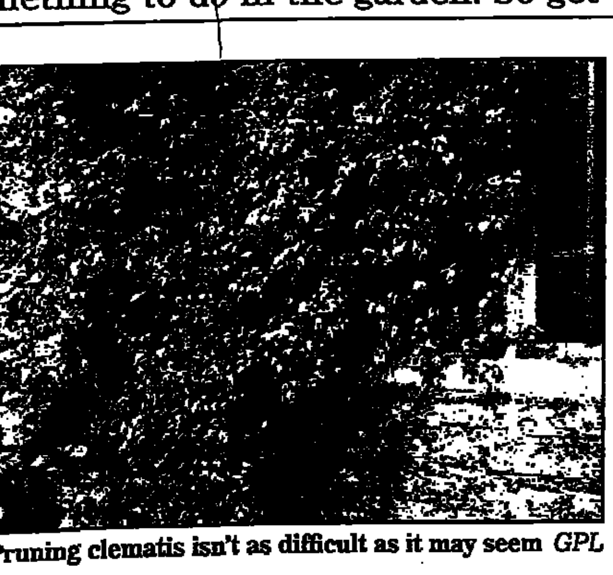
Cotinus: No regular pruning is needed, but you can cut out or shorten straggly growths now to keep the bush in good shape.

Eucalyptus: If you want to grow this as a bush rather than a tree, cut back all the growths to ground level now. This treatment means that the bush will only produce rounded juvenile foliage. Some gardeners prefer this to the long, adult leaves.

Continues next week

Pruning time is here again

At last, there's something to do in the garden. So get out those shears. By **Ursula Buchan**



Pruning clematis isn't as difficult as it may seem *GPL*

IT IS an irony of gardening life that we have most time to spend in the garden when there are the smallest number of tasks to be done.

February is the month when there is least else to distract me, yet when I prowl around the garden looking for things to do I am forced to discount most of them as unsuitable. It is too early to sow seeds in sodden ground, stake perennials or mow. A mild, damp winter, such as we have just experienced, is the very devil, for it encourages precocious weed growth, yet the soil is too wet for congenial and easy weeding. Thank goodness, then, for summer-flowering deciduous shrubs which need to be pruned and to give me something to do.

Pruning late-summer-flowering shrubs, in fact, makes falling off a log look a dangerously complicated procedure. Those plants that flower after midsummer almost all do so on "wood" (ie shoots) that are "made" (ie grow) this season rather than last. Pruning these therefore consists of cutting back all the old shoots, which flowered last year, in order both to make room for new shoots and also to give the plant an enormous stimulus. Most plants which require this treatment have already begun to show "breaking" buds, so the pruner has a guide; he or she need only cut just above these incipient leaves, to stimulate them into growth and, ultimately, flower.

The best-known example of a suitable case for this treatment is *Buddleia davidii*, which flowers in July and August. Of course, it will flower even if left unpruned but, in the context of the garden, the old injunction "keep your shrubs young" is a valid one. The way to prune buddleia is to cut back the long, flowered stems to the permanent framework close to the ground, and cut to ground-level one or two of the oldest branches, if they have become woody, hollow and congested. Buddleias are a good shrub to practise on if you've never done this sort of thing before, because their vigour means that you can be pretty drastic.

Once you see how easy it is, have a go at *Caryopteris* x *clandonensis*, *Ceratostigma willmottianum*, lavatera, *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, and the summer-flowering spiraeas such as *S japonica* as well.

This principle of pruning applies also to autumn-fruiting raspberries, such as 'Autumn Bliss' and 'September'. These are specially quick-growing varieties, capable of doing the whole business between February and September. If you cut back the existing shoots almost to ground level, new ones will grow up rapidly and strongly to replace them.

All I have said applies to clematis that flower after midsummer. Clematis, like roses, seem to promise endless difficulties and complications in their pruning but, in fact, the basic rules of pruning should not be abandoned but, on the contrary, rigorously obeyed. Late-summer flowers (what are known as Group 3 clematis), are pruned hard to encourage this season's growth. Cut the stems back to a pair of good buds less than 1ft (30cm) from the ground.

You don't have to be too pernickety about it; if your clematis is in a real tangle, you can grab a bunch of stems and clip straight with the secateurs, as if you were an old-fashioned Army barber. It seems callous to cut away "breaking" buds, I know, but there is no helping it with a climber that comes to life so early in the year.

After an agreeable afternoon spent pruning clematis and other shrubs, you will have a good deal of (mercifully light) rubbish to get rid of. If you are in the habit of shredding your clippings, or you live in a district where you are allowed to put them on a bonfire, leave them in a heap for a while first, to give the small birds in your garden the chance to find suitable material for their nests.

That way everybody in the garden is happy.

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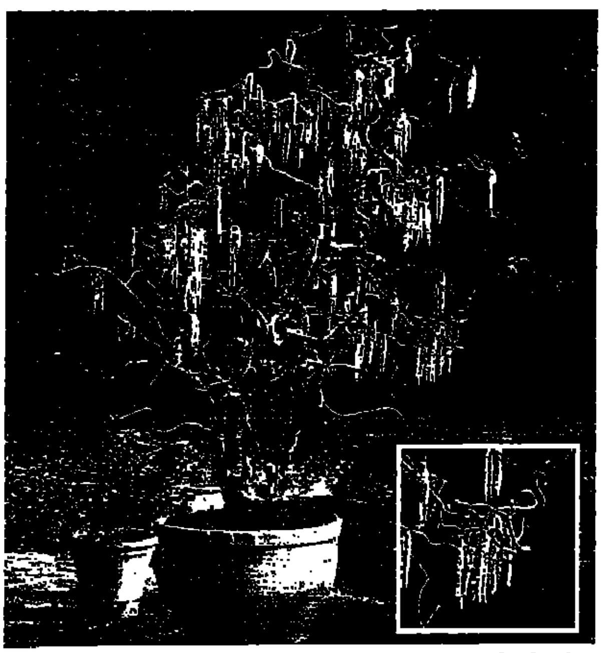

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Blooms in the USA

Touring the States to publicise her new book, 'The Tulip', **Anna Pavord** discovers cacti and 16th-century art

I have just returned from a roller-coaster ride through the States in the wake of *The Tulip*. We sometimes tease Americans for their If-this-is-Saturday-it-must-be-Stratford tours. Mine was far more absurd. Last Monday it was not only Minneapolis, but Milwaukee as well.

At this time of year, it is impossible to think of the place as a single country. A plane may whisk you in a few hours from San Francisco to Wisconsin, but it is more difficult to set your mind at the same speed. In the morning, I would be admiring the bizarre sight of *Magnolia campbellii* spreading its vast pink blooms over a collection of huge cacti. In the afternoon, I would be standing in a blizzard with the ground under my feet frozen 2ft deep.

British gardeners tend to introduce themselves by means of their soil. "How do you do? I'm on clay." "Oh poor you! I'm slightly acid sand." Americans talk zones. "Hi! Chuck's the name. Zone Five. Six, if I'm lucky." But you soon get the hang of it. Britain is so tiny that almost the whole of it sits in what American gardeners recognise as Zone 8, with winter temperatures rarely below 10-20F (-12 to -7C). Only the chilliest bits of Scotland qualify for Zone 7.

Being so small (and so obsessed with gardens), we are also used to having garden guides that tell us where to visit, whether in Cornwall or Caithness. You need to work harder to get similar information in the States. But if you're in the Pacific north west, look for *Gardeners on the Go: Seattle* by Stephanie Feeney. You'll find plenty of ideas for tours around Puget Sound, taking in nurseries, places to eat and good bookshops as well as gardens.

We had a fabulous drive up the coast north of Seattle with the snow-covered Cascade mountains glittering almost all the way to the Skagit Valley. The Skagit is the greatest tulip-growing area in the States, so I was drawn there as irresistibly as a surfer to California. I did not expect, though, to find descendants of two great Dutch tulip growers, the Roozens and the Lefebers, to be here, still growing.

I was too early for the Tulip Festival (2-18 April), but skulked instead in Scotts Bookstore in Mt Vernon, an undisturbed town with good turn-of-the-century buildings. I felt as though I had wandered on to the film set of a dislocated Western and half-expected Gary Cooper to lope through the doors of the store. No such luck, but the compensation was a wonderful sweetcorn chowder in the bookstore's café.

If you are in Mt Vernon in April, make for the Lefeber Bulb Company's 25-acre bulb field and its little Museum of Tulip History. Tulip-growing started in this area in 1906, when Mary Brown Stewart planted the first commercial bulb crop. Last year more than 40 million bulbs left the valley, many of them sold to Holland. Go to the Roozengaarde, too, to wander in the immaculately maintained display garden.

Less familiar to us – except under glass – are cactus gardens. I was staggered by the beauty and strangeness of the cactus garden at the Huntington in San Marino, California. I knew there was a great library there, but had not realised there was also a vast garden (and a house stuffed with treasures).

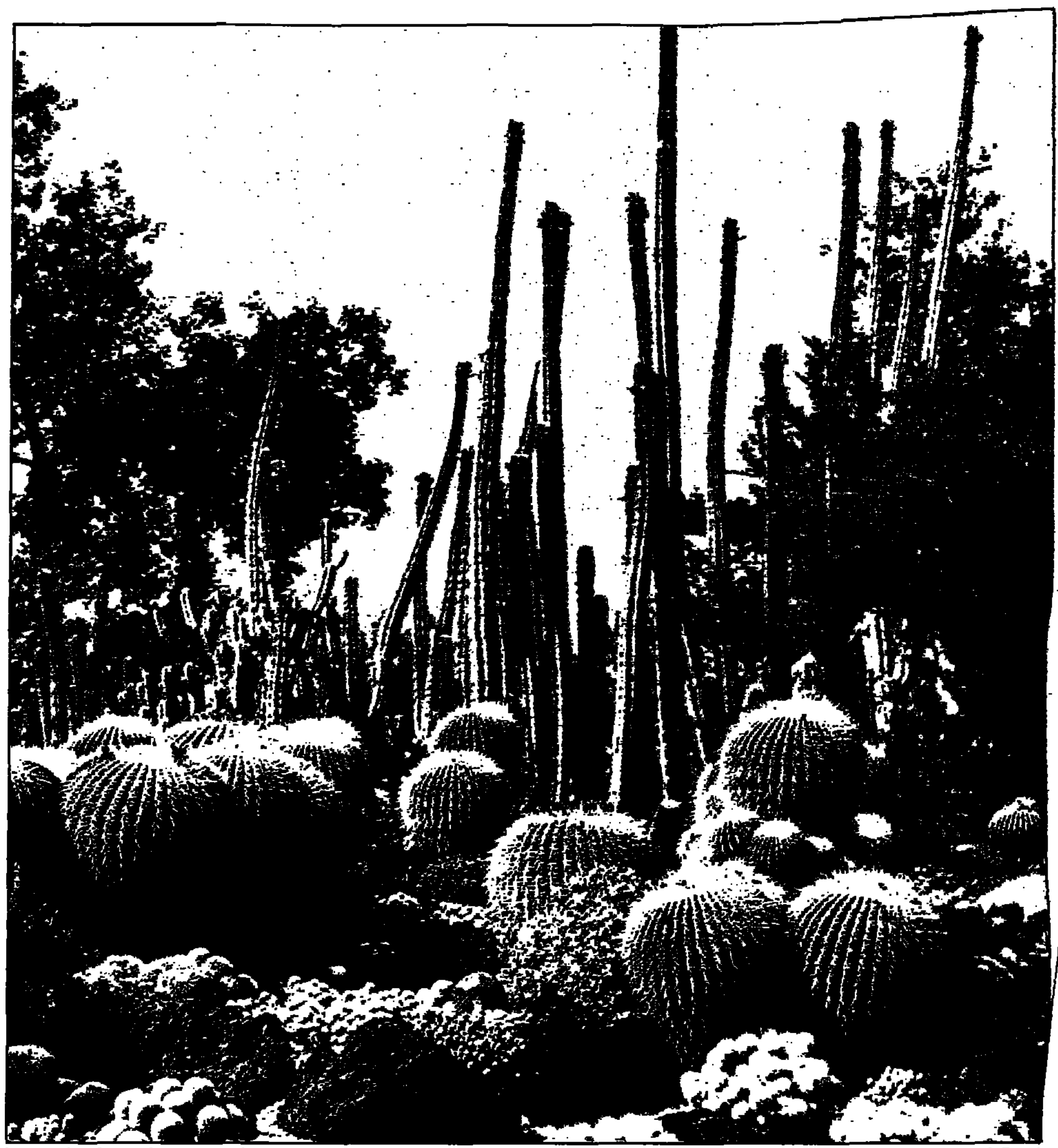
The cactus garden is only one of the many different gardens surrounding the library, and the people there were keenest for me to see the Japanese garden. Cactus gardens are nothing to them and it was difficult to explain to Californians why I found their mass plantings of cacti so spectacular; used in huge drifts and stands, as we might lay out a shrubbery or flower border, they became heroic. And I'd always supposed I didn't much care for cacti.

In Washington, it was still too chilly to garden anywhere but under glass. In the huge conservatory of Brookside Gardens on the outskirts, I eyed up orchids that seemed quite ludicrously lavish compared with the pinched, cold landscape outside. The begonias here were superb, too. Plants that are growing happily also seem to transmit those feelings to us. Conversely, stressed plants make us cross and anxious.

My final treat was the National Gallery of Art in Washington, with the great East Building by I M Pei (he of the Louvre pyramid).

The gallery is stuffed with Cézannes and Monets, but my goal was the *From Botany to Bouquets* exhibition. Its aim is to reveal the shifting ground of Flemish and Dutch flower paintings of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. At what stage did science turn into art? The drawing of a hellebore in an *Iconographica. Botanicae* of 1500 was made when the naming of names had only just begun. Its purpose was to identify.

There were also masses of painted tulips, the icons of the age, by the best painters. The show is not to be missed. Washington is only six-and-a-half flying hours away. It takes me longer to drive to Yorkshire.



Mass plantings of cacti may be common-or-garden in California, but to the British, they are a revelation *Huntington Library*

FURTHER INFORMATION

Useful book: *Gardeners on the Go: Seattle* by Stephanie Feeney (Cedarcroft Press, $15.95).

For information on the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, contact the Festival Office, PO Box 1784, Mt Vernon, WA 98273 (001 360 428 5959), for a free brochure (with a map). The Lefeber Bulb Co is at 14379 State Route 536, Memorial Hwy, Mt Vernon (001 360 424 6234). The Roozengaarde (now part of the massive Washington Bulb Co) is at 15867 Beaver Marsh Rd, Mt Vernon (001 360 424 8531).

The Huntington Library and Garden is at 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA 91108. Admission free. Open daily (001 626 405 2135).

To get to Brookside Gardens take the Washington Beltway to Exit 31A. Follow Georgia Avenue north for three miles and turn right at Randolph Rd. At the second set of lights take another right on to Glen Alan Avenue. The gardens are three quarters of a mile. Open daily. Admission free.

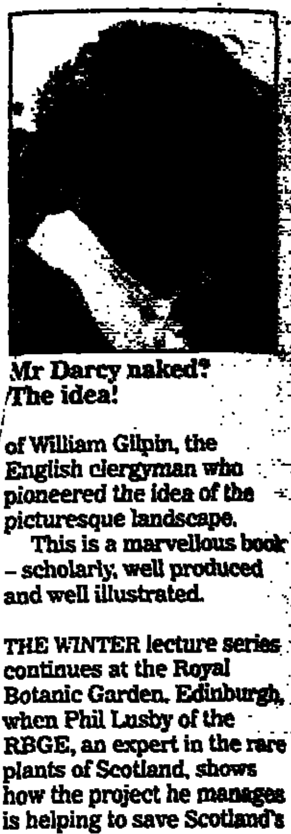
The National Gallery of Art is on Constitution Avenue between 3rd and 7th St, Washington NW. Closest subway station: Archives-Navy Memorial. Open Mon-Sat (10am-5pm) Sun (11am-6pm). Admission free. *From Botany to Bouquets* is until 31 May (001 202 737 4215).

CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

JANE AUSTEN fans have not always been pleased by the liberties taken with their heroine's work. Mr Darcy naked? The idea! But in *Jane Austen and the English Landscape* by Mavis Batey (Barn Elms, £19.99) they will find a more sympathetic interpretation. Mavis Batey shows that Jane Austen evidently loved "scampering about the country" as Miss Bingley scathingly put it.

The erudite author explains how much of Austen's description of Darcy's place, Pemberley, depended on her knowledge of William Gilpin, the English clergyman who pioneered the idea of the picturesque landscape.



Mr Darcy naked? The idea!

This is a marvellous book – scholarly, well produced and well illustrated.

THE WINTER lecture series continues at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, when Phil Lusby of the RBGE, an expert in the rare plants of Scotland, shows how the project he manages is helping to save Scotland's most threatened plants. His lecture is on 11 March at 3pm in the Lecture Theatre at the Royal Botanic Garden. No booking. No charge. Just turn up.

THE ORCHID festival being held at Kew Gardens is an astonishing spectacle. Thousands of these exotic wonders are on display, with special exhibits of species such as the Dracula orchid, which mimics the smell of rotting flesh in order to attract insects to pollinate it. Not many of us can get to the cloud forests of Central and South America where these plants come from. Kew is a train ride away. The festival continues until 28 March. For details, call 0181-332 5000.

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The beaches of Sri Lanka are legendary. But **Tricia Bowker** went there to embrace glorious mud and rain

Pack your trunk and head for Sri Lanka: the winning wildlife picture in the Wanderlust/Independent travel photography competition *John Dinham*

"No, really! This is the dry zone," insisted our guide as the rain beat heavily on the roof of the bus and our group drove inland, away from Sri Lanka's sunny coast. I would never have believed that a sun-worshipper like myself could enjoy a holiday during the tail-end of the monsoon but, wandering in the warm rain around the ruins of the island's ancient capital, Polonnaruwa, had me converted.

The 10 other people in my group felt the same way. We hadn't met before setting off on this organised tour of Sri Lanka. In fact, we discovered that we came from different parts of the UK and from all manner of professions and, in terms of age, we ranged from early twenties to early fifties. What we did have in common, however, was a mutual desire to spend our fortnight in Sri Lanka doing more than lying on one of its wonderful beaches.

When it rained again the next day as we cycled through the tiny villages surrounding our hotel at Giritale, we contemplated the beach and doubts about our choice surfaced. These were soon washed away, however. Soaked through and covered in mud, this was one of the most invigorating holidays I'd ever been on. The cycling was interspersed with regular breaks to take shelter under palm trees and drink from freshly opened coconuts. Along the way, we were greeted by smiling children and, further on, passed a hundred or so soldiers on a training exercise, face down in the paddy fields.

Back at the hotel restaurant that evening, Anna queried an item on the menu. The waiter explained that "Fish from the Tank" didn't mean the goldfish that we had passed on the way in, but the various fish that swam their way around the artificial lake opposite. Originally created for irrigation in the fourth century, the tank is still an impressive sight today.

Thanks to all the rain our boat trip on the "tank" was cancelled but the following morning we travelled on into "the wet zone" and, ironically, the sun finally came out. Now the coconut palms seemed taller and the banana plants more lush and green. Along the way, we stopped off at tiny, isolated fruit stalls to try out fruit never seen back in local Safeways: apple crumble-flavoured custard apples, pink, crunchy jambos, and knobbly, slippery jackfruit, which you either love or hate.

We arrived in Kandy, the main town in the hill country, to find that the important Buddhist shrine, the "Temple of the Tooth", was covered in scaffolding following a Tamil Tiger bomb last year – though this was the only sign of any ethnic violence we encountered.

In fact, everyone we met during our travels was extremely friendly and happy, and keen to make contact. It was almost impossible to pass anyone without having to respond to the questions "Bonbons?", "School pen?" or "Married?", depending on the age of the person asking the questions (my travelling companion Ruth must have had at least 10 marriage proposals by the end of the trip). It seemed that the locals were as fascinated by us as we were by them. One evening, as we wandered outside the riverside resthouse at Belihuloya, spotting fireflies in the trees, we heard cheering from a restaurant. A large group of locals were gathered around a television set, jumping around in excitement as they watched a cricket match against England. The atmosphere was just like being in an English pub during the World Cup.

We had another, less pleasant, reminder of Britain when we arrived at the town of Nuwara Eliya. Our guide expected us to be impressed by this area he called "Little England", with its golf course and old-fashioned post office, but most of the group felt uncomfortable here and were glad to move south the next day to the Sinharaja Nature Reserve.

At 5am, we happily woke up for a walk through the virgin rainforest of the Reserve. The lush tropical plants and flowers were filled with black and white courting butterflies, a luminous gold and red insect which our guide had never seen before and the sounds of monkeys and strange birds – as well as the rather less lovely leeches.

Our walk led us to a jungle lodge where we helped to grind coconut and cut up bitter gourd, snake gourd, loofah and other unrecognisable vegetables. These were to be the ingredients for our delicious rice and curry lunch which we ate, as we had been told to, with our fingers.

Another 5am start beckoned. We all piled into jeeps to set off to look for elephants. A pregnant elephant is quite an amazing sight, and so were the peacocks perched on top of trees, basking crocodiles, water buffalo, monkeys and the dinosaur-like land monitor.

The next animals we saw were cows, strolling gently up and down as we lay sunning ourselves on the sand at Ahangama – well, we had to test out one of the island's idyllic beaches before we left for home.

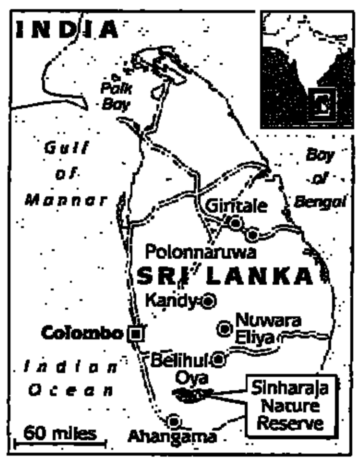
Tricia Bowker paid £895 for a 16-day 'Hallowed Island' tour of Sri Lanka with Travelbag Adventures (01420 541007). The cost included return flights from London Heathrow, all accommodation, some meals and the services of a group leader throughout the trip

FACT FILE

THE ONLY direct flights between the UK and Sri Lankan capitals are on Air Lanka (0171-930 4688), which has six non-stop flights each way every week. The lowest return fares are available through discount agents. Airline Network (0800 747000) is quoting £417 for travel outbound on the Air Lanka flight on Wednesdays; on other days the fare is £20 more. Trailfinders (0171-938 3366) has a fare of £405 on Kuwait Airways, £433 on Emirates; these require a change of planes in the Gulf.

Red tape: British visitors to Sri Lanka do not require visas for short-term visits.

More information: Sri Lanka Tourism, 22 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4QD (tel 0171-930 2627).



SIMON CALDER

It's important to put in perspective the tragic events in Uganda and Yemen

TRAGEDY STRIKES deep. The feelings of every traveller will go out to the families of the tourists who died in Uganda this week. Beyond those individual calamities, though, there are wider tragedies yet to emerge from the events in Bwindi National Park.

The first repercussion will be for the people of Uganda. Having suffered dreadfully in the past three decades, they were at last enjoying some benefits from increasing tourism. As anyone who has been to that sad, beautiful country will know, Uganda offers superb scenery and entrancing wildlife.

More significantly, visitors meet a people whose generosity of spirit is truly humbling. Tourism will never become the economic salvation of Uganda, but word was spreading among travellers about the joys of the country, and earnings were beginning to rise.

Second, despite the Ugandan efforts to seek out and punish the perpetrators, a strong message has gone out to other guerrilla factions around the world. The moral that men of violence will take from this amoral attack is that by aiming at the softest of targets – people on holiday – you can damage the economy of the host nation, and strike out by proxy against other world powers. The only surprise is that it has taken so long for anti-government elements to follow the lead of the Shining Path in Peru, who wounded their country's economy by explicitly targeting tourists in the Eighties.

The third tragedy would be if these awful events deterred us travellers from visiting regions perceived to be unsafe. Before you conclude that the risk of adventure tourism is too high, put events such as this attack – and the tragedy in Yemen last year, when four travellers died – in perspective.

Statistically, few of the 500 or so British travellers who will die abroad this year will be victims of wanton violence. Instead, you should be concerned about much more mundane worries, such as swimming – about 60 Brits drown abroad each year. But your main focus should be on the skills of local drivers.

Road accidents are by far the single largest killer of British travellers abroad. Fatal crashes are alarmingly common in many of our favourite holiday destinations: Egypt, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Morocco and Turkey all feature in the top 10 of most lethal roads.

The cult of the car is scary. In Bolivia, vehicles are endowed with their own personalities and baptised by local clergy in a ceremony which goes: "Bless this car. May the driver drive in a Christian way. May the motor not use too much petrol." This blessing does little to alleviate the traffic chaos and dreadful driving in and around La Paz.

In normal times, the biggest threat to human life in Uganda is the *matutu*. It comprises a minibus generally occupied by too many passengers and too ambitious a driver. While waiting to collect a Ugandan visa at the High Commission in Trafalgar Square, I leafed through the Kampala daily *New Vision*. The newspaper was crammed full of accounts of road accidents, including one grisly tale of six men who were taking the body of a friend – killed in a crash a few days earlier – for burial. Their pick-up truck collided with a *matutu*. All six were killed, along with several passengers in the minibus.

The single most effective measure that any traveller can take is to minimise the amount of road travel in countries with high accident rates. If the tourist office won't tell you how bad the drivers are, an objective source such as *The Economist's World in Figures* will.

IF THE tales in an excellent book on tourism security are emulated, it seems the awful events in Uganda could be used to promote alternative destinations. In *Tourism, Crime and International Security Issues*, Abraham Pizam and Yoel Mansfeld describe the concept of "substitutability", whereby nearby destinations seek to prosper from instability. The book provides examples after the coup in Fiji in 1987. The state of Queensland advertised its attractions with the slogan "Golden beaches, coconut palms and no coups". The Solomon Islands, meanwhile, announced "War ended in the Solomons in 1945. Why risk Fiji?"

"DOORS TO Manual" is the sassy title for Channel 4's new city break series (Wednesdays, 8.30pm), in which three groups of travellers have 48 hours to experience a new destination.

When a plane departs, cabin crew are told to set "doors to automatic", or to "arm doors". This means that in the event of a forced landing, opening the door triggers the inflatable escape slide. When the aircraft arrives safely at its destination, cabin crew are told to select the "doors to manual". Each must be switched from automatic operation – otherwise, as soon as the main cabin door opens, the emergency slide will inflate. This would prove both embarrassing and rather expensive. So crew must ensure that their opposite number on the other side of the cabin has set the door to manual – "cross-checking".

A pedant (see picture, above left) watching the opening titles will have noted the phrase "Cabin crew, cross-check, doors to manual" in the style of a stewardess. This is like telling a motorist to "drive away and start the engine"; until the doors are switched to manual, there is nothing to cross-check.

Perhaps I should get out more often.

Tea, coffee or an escape slide? *Scottish Daily Record*

SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

True or false: *flying Aeroflot is cheap and cheerful?*
True. You can get from Heathrow to Kathmandu for £341 return – with the chance of meeting the star of a docusoap. The Russian airline offers this fare on its weekly flight to the Nepalese capital, via Moscow and Sharjah, through the discount agent IMS Travel (0171-224 4678). And before you shudder at the thought of travelling with one of the world's less celebrated airlines, you should know that Aeroflot has improved enormously.

On a recent flight, the clean and comfortable aircraft took off and landed on time. In-flight service included a free alcoholic drink (or drinks, in some cases), tasty food, efficient and obliging cabin staff and capable pilots whose skills produced a very gentle landing at Heathrow – a doddle after coping with the ice and snow at Moscow.

By taking a sleeping bag, the necessary eight-hour overnight wait in the transit lounge at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on the return leg passed very quickly until the arrival of the free breakfast.

The downside was a lack of in-flight entertainment, but a good book and people-watching compensated for this – that, and failing to get an upgrade from Jeremy Sprake of BBC1's *Airport* fame; I met the star of the fly-on-the-wall documentary at his usual post, supervising Aeroflot check-in at Heathrow.

WILLIAM BATTEN

Bargain of the week: *the best transatlantic air fare, ever.*
The sub-£150 barrier has finally been breached, for flights from Heathrow to Boston in April and May.

The winter crop of ridiculously cheap tickets across the Atlantic usually ends shortly before Easter. But to fill its new Boston flight, starting 5 April, United Airlines is selling return flights to the New England city for a preposterously low £148.

It is available through discount agents such as Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000), rather than direct with the airline. You must book by 19 March, and fly outbound by the end of May.

For comparison, a return standard class rail ticket from London to Berwick costs £150.

SIMON CALDER

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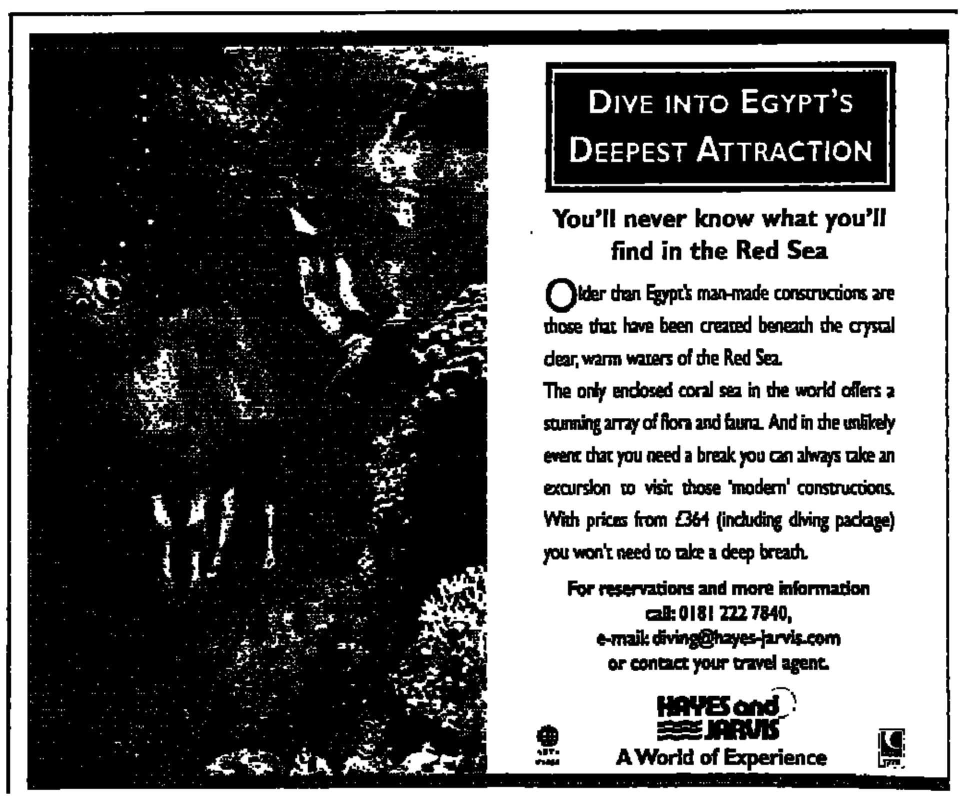

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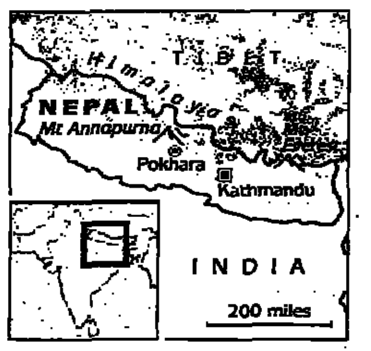
Accompanied by an inspirational female guide, **Ruth Rosselson** realised her dream to trek in Nepal



Doing a trek in Nepal had been an ambition of mine ever since I met some people who had trekked there. I'm not a particularly physical person and walking up a mountain for days seemed a daunting prospect – but still it became something I aspired to. As I wanted to travel alone, I needed a guide, and decided to find a Nepalese woman who could accompany me.

Although this was an unusual ambition, I managed to find a phone number for a trekking agency in Pokhara that was run by three sisters. I contacted them on my arrival in Kathmandu and, luckily, discovered that one of the sisters was free to take me.

Dicky, was 32, the middle sister and unmarried (she could not have done her job otherwise). She had a round friendly face, shoulder-length black hair and a contagious laugh. At five foot one, she was barely an inch taller than me and we got on immediately.

I had chosen the Annapurna Sanctuary trek because it was supposed to offer excellent views. The guide books all said it required a moderate fitness level; unfortunately, on the first day, as we began the ascent from the valley floor, I discovered my assessment of my physical condition had been a little optimistic. Dicky proved herself by being encouraging and supportive, making sure she paced herself to my speed and reassuring me that I was capable of what lay ahead.

The captivating scenery helped to spur me on. Small, delicate purple flowers surrounded us, and as we walked higher, we were greeted with new views of the river and the valley. Meanwhile, the mountains ahead beckoned. By the end of the first day, completely exhausted and feeling the strain, we arrived to spend the night in the village of Gandruk. I felt as if I had already achieved something great.

That same feeling of exhilaration awaited me every time we arrived at our goal for the day – but it was nothing compared to the elation, satisfaction and sheer joy I felt on arriving at the Annapurna Sanctuary at six in the morning.

We had woken at 4am under a completely clear sky peppered with the brightest stars I had yet seen. As the altitude had begun to make itself known, I had found that I wasn't sleeping as long or as well as a hard day's walk necessitated. Despite this, I was beginning to get used to the walking, and to the weight of my backpack, and the walk to the Annapurna Base Camp (or ABC as it was affectionately known) wasn't too hard, taking around two hours. Although I had to keep stopping, this was more out of reverence for the dawn-lit view unfolding before my eyes than from any breathlessness. For the distant fishtail mountain which had beckoned every morning now towered over me, huge and majestic.

My feeling of achievement was enormous, and I hugged Dicky, knowing that I could not have made it without her strength and support. Her faith in me had been unwavering, even when mine deserted and started heading for the plane home. In fact, this was just one high point of many in my 12 days of trekking with Dicky. Her English was excellent and we were able to establish a close friendship during that time. I learnt much about Nepalese and Hindu culture and, in exchange, also taught her some of the stranger ways and words of British life.

Dicky was the only female guide I met on the whole trek – not surprising considering the predominantly male culture. On her guide-training course she was the only woman among more than one hundred men. But her determination and love of the mountains had got her through and that enthusiasm was apparent throughout the trek. She was a rock of support, as well as being a practical help, ensuring all the food I ate was cooked properly and hygienically.

As she was the only woman guide around, she could not sleep in the same room as the male guides and so shared with me. In that way, I was never alone and she was more companion than guide. While the others played cards and drank during the evenings, Dicky ate with me, and we spent many evenings chatting to each other and the other trekkers.

Although visitors don't necessarily need a guide for this particular trek, having Dicky travel alongside gave me far more access to local people, not least because she was able to translate for us. It also meant that while walking, when the going was slippery and difficult, Dicky's hands were there, waiting to help me down or catch me if I fell. Although this kind of interaction may have been acceptable with a male guide, it would have been awkward and I would have felt uncomfortable with it.

I also knew that while I enjoyed the company of other trekkers in the evenings, I might have felt inadequate travelling in a group during the day – as it was unlikely I could have matched the pace of most of them, and so would have ended up trekking alone, struggling to catch up. This way, the pace and the agenda was all mine.

After 12 days of ups and downs (literally as well as emotionally), I was ready to return to Pokhara, eager for hot water and comfortable beds. Dicky, meanwhile, had one day's rest before taking another new hopeful on the route to the Sanctuary.

The captivating scenery on the Annapurna Sanctuary trek helps to keep you going

Pat & Baiba Morrow/Colori

The Chhetri Sisters arrange tailor-made treks with their female guides from around £10 per day (food and accommodation will cost around £ extra per day). Contact them at Sisters Adventure Trekking Ltd, Chhetri Sisters Guest House, Lakeside, Kharare, Pokhara-6, Nepal, PO Box 284 (00 977 61 24066 or e-mail sisters3@ cnet.wlink.com.np)

She's got the whole world in her hands

A global organisation that encourages female friendship is joining in the celebrations for International Women's Day. By **Rachel Henry**

"I'LL MEET you at the arrivals gate," said Sandy Darrall. Scary words from a US Customs Inspector, but Sandy wasn't about to haul me off to a small, windowless room; she is a member of Women Welcome Women World Wide (5W), the international friendship organisation, and had offered to put me up for a night at her home near Freeport, Grand Bahama.

"You'll see me – I'll be the big woman with short red hair," she'd said on the telephone. When my plane landed, more than an hour late, she was there with a welcoming smile, waiting at the gate.

Sandy has only recently joined 5W, which has 2,600 members in 67 countries. It's a simple and clever idea. You send a donation – minimum £20 – to the 5W office in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and they send you a list of their members. You can then contact any member on that list, in any country, and ask to stay with them, or suggest meeting for dinner or coffee, whatever is acceptable to both parties. Your own details will go on the list – with assurances of strict confidentiality – and other members can contact you. But there's no obligation; if you don't want a fellow member, her husband and six children to stay, you just say so. All arrangements are made privately.

"5W tends to attract people who like travelling, and who are open to other cultures," said Jayne Spinks-Dear, 36, who joined 5W last year. Jayne, who is deputy head of Woodlands School in Basildon, Essex, and her surveyor husband, Richard, have two children, Andrew, three, and one-year-old Kathryn, who were "born clutching passports". 5W has members who welcome children (and husbands and partners), and last summer Jayne took Andrew and Kathryn to stay with 5W members in Germany. At half-term they went to Brussels. "You can do all sorts of things when you're staying with people who have local knowledge," she said, "and the children love it."

On the other side of the world, in Hobart, Australia, 33-year-old Helen Starosta is about to set off on a six-month trip to Europe. Fifteen members responded to her request for contacts in the 5W newsletter. One woman in Austria has offered to spend a week showing her the country, and Helen will be staying with others in France and near York. "It's easier to meet local people with 5W," she said. "That feeling of being made welcome, that makes a big difference, especially when you're travelling on your own." Heather Cockrell, 61, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, agreed. When she visited Hungary recently her hostess took her to places that "were not secret, just hidden"; they went swimming in hot cave springs up in the hills.

5W was set up in 1984 by Frances Alexander, 63, a former teacher and currently mayor of High Wycombe. "When women join us," she said, "they and their families become international. And that, in a global village, is no bad thing."

Frances emphasised that 5W is not about cheap holidays, but about cross-cultural friendship.

Members, who range in age from 17 to 90, often write to 5W to say how much they enjoyed a visit, as guest or hostess, but there is the occasional glitch, where cultures clash or when someone forgets to write a thank-you note. One member warns of bathroom customs, when visitors come from countries where lavatory paper goes into the bin rather than down the loo. 5W stresses that "clear communication is the key".

Women Welcome Women works on the basis that "friendship is the best passport", and with the majority of members it works well, and local doors open wide.

Sandy took me to meet her friends for a beach picnic; we toured the island, propped up the local expat bar at Club Carib, and ended up on a yacht in the harbour. I gained a friend and had a marvellous 24 hours. As a hotel-bound tourist, I would have missed it all.

Women Welcome Women World Wide is based at 88 Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 1LT (01494 465441); or www.womenwelcomewomen.org.uk

FINDING FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

"IF YOU reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, you might better stay home. You are like a pebble thrown into water; you become wet on the surface but you are never a part of the water." James A Michener's stern warning to travellers is quoted by Friendship Force, one of several organisations that give the visitor the chance to become immersed in a foreign country.

It was founded by former US president Jimmy Carter and current Friendship Force president Wayne Smith. "You are invited to stay in the home of some friends you haven't yet met. Our exchanges include a one or two-week homestay with optional post-exchange touring in the region."

The best contact for Friendship Force is its website, www.friendship-force.org

Other organisations which link up hosts and travellers include the following:

Servas This international organisation was founded 50 years ago by an American Quaker. It has around 10,000 members and runs a worldwide network of hosts and travellers, established in 80 countries. It aims to promote international understanding and the exchange of ideas. To become a Servas member, you need to be interviewed by a co-ordinator and pay a joining fee. You get a list of members in your chosen country, and you then make contact with the host on the understanding that you will stay for two nights. Call 0181-444 7778, or e-mail servasbritain@unat.com

The Experiment in International Living – billing itself as "an international non-profit organisation promoting intercultural learning through homestays, educational group travel, study abroad, language training, au pair, and other cultural immersion programs".

The British office of EIL is at 287 Worcester Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1AB (01684 562577); its website is www.eiluk.org

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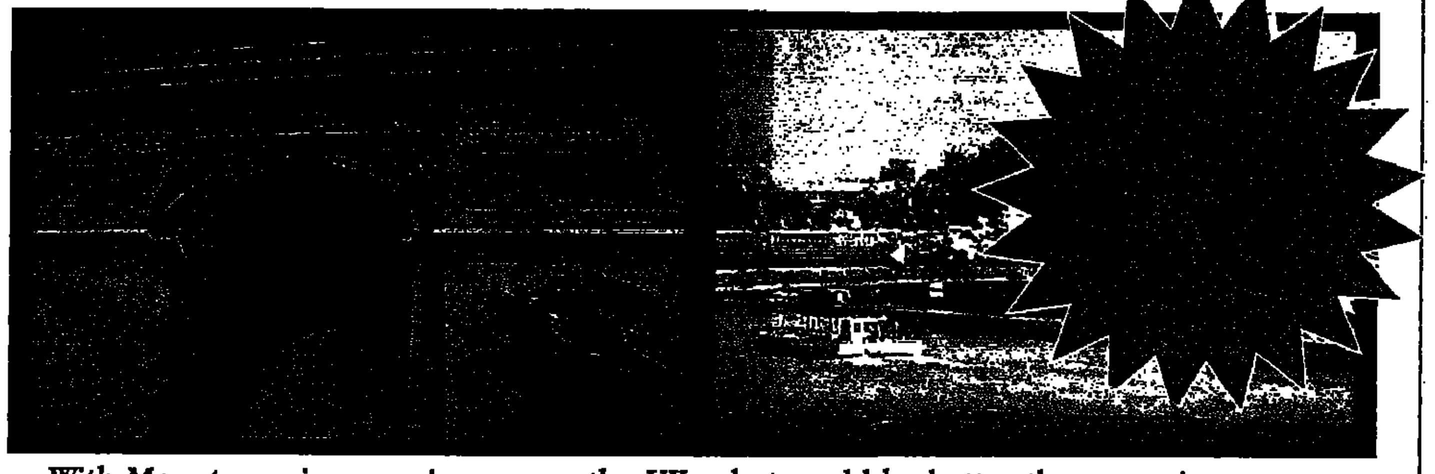

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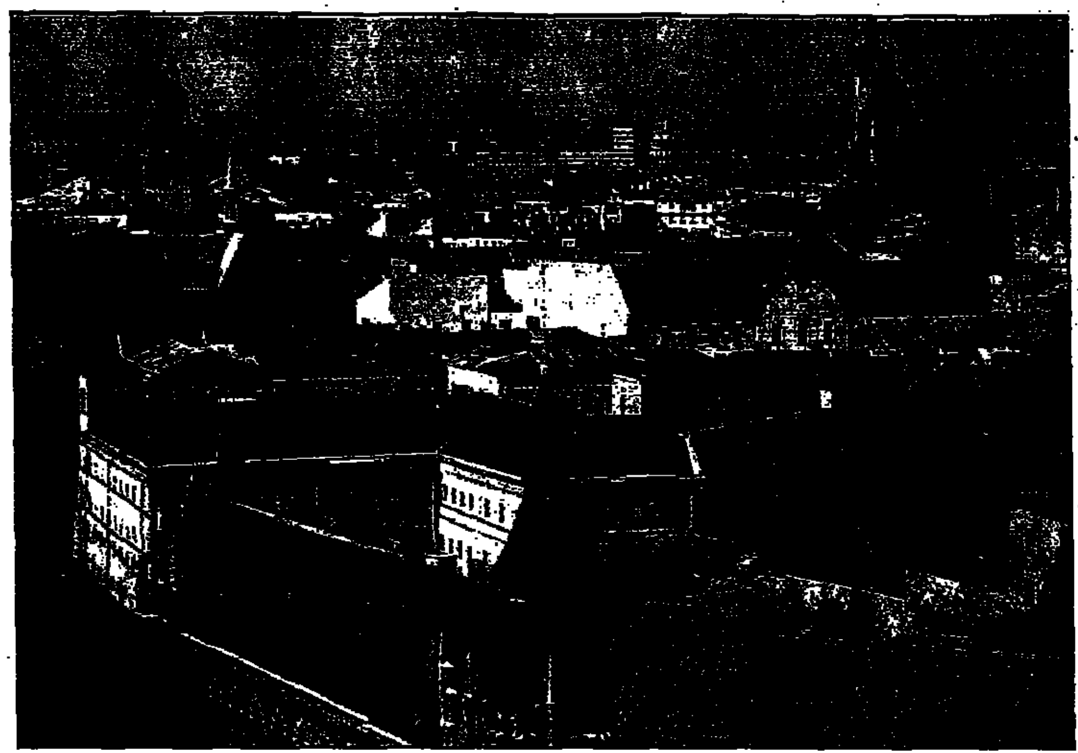
A place of popes and killers

Krakow is a magnet for Roman Catholics, but nearby visitors find a profoundly dark side to humanity. By **Adrian Hamilton**



Krakow, a city with a church at virtually every corner *RHPL*

The only way to approach Krakow is in a state of genuflection. Not at the wonders of the city, impressive though they are in this, a European cultural capital of 2000. It's just that everyone else is at it. Southern Poland, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtila), is the heartland of Roman Catholicism, and Krakow the city that never wavered in its faith despite the years of communist suppression. Now everywhere the churches – and there are churches every 50 yards in the city and as many abbeys and monasteries in the surrounding countryside – are overflowing with enthusiastic congregations.

Through the day they come in and out for a service, or a prayer, with pram, briefcase or laden shopping baskets, bobbing, kneeling and bowing as they go. Saturday is the day of marriage, and no church seems complete without one an hour, white frock and dark suit fresh from the state register office.

Saturday is also the day when the city's centre, the Rynek Glowny (the largest square in Europe) comes alive with music and street entertainment. When we were there, a folk-song competition brought troops from all over Central Europe and further afield, jumping and swirling to their home bands – too folksy by half except that your feet wanted to dance.

Krakow is a walker's city, smaller in scale than Prague, not a capital city (though it was for 500 years until the end of the 16th century) but a town of church, trade, ancient university and monarchy. Once girdled by a great wall and now by gardens, to walk down the royal processional route from the Florianska Gate in the north to the royal castle and cathedral to the south takes barely half-an-hour.

The church is best represented by the 14th-century Mariacki by the square, with its huge late gothic polyptych hanging over the high altar. Most of Europe's polyptyches have long since been broken up. Even Ghent's *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* has been removed to a special corner. Not so at Mariacki. The altarpiece looms up, 20 feet or more, its gilded doors opened each day at the stroke of midday and closed again in late afternoon by a prim and proper lady smaller than half the figures on the tableau.

Trade is in the square and the merchants' palaces that surround it – and in the cavernous cellars that lie beneath them, hastily being converted to bars and restaurants for the millennium year. The 15th-century University of Copernicus houses (so they say in Krakow) the alchemy room where Dr Faustus was supposed to have experimented until the devil came to tempt him.

Monarchy had its residence in the fabled Wawel Castle and adjoining cathedral, seat of the dynasty until 1596 when King Sigismund III Waza moved the capital to Warsaw. The royal palace was rebuilt in the 16th century by Florentine architects and adorned with one of the finest collections of Flanders tapestries anywhere in the world.

It was the Poles from Krakow who went out to fight and defeat the Turks, which was their claim to European history and the source of some marvellous booty. The defeat of the Turks also gave fame and fortune to the Czartyska family, formidable fighters and even more determined art collectors. Their palace at the north of the city houses an art and antiquities collection the equal of any private collection in the world, including a Leonardo portrait of a lady with an ermine which a thousand postcards cannot quite prepare you for.

"Wonderful unspoilt city," said a friend who had been a correspondent in Poland in the dark days after the suppression of the 1968 uprising. "Pity about the pollution." Never damaged in this century's wars, Krakow did indeed suffer from the decades of grime and soot poured out by the Nowa Huta steelworks. The emissions can still clog your throat. But the end of communism, the decline in the steel industry and the prospect of being cultural capital for the new millennium have induced a cleaning programme that has revived most of the main streets to their former glory. And, slowly, slowly, tourism has encouraged the establishment of restaurants (we were pointed to a rollicking good cellar of wooden tables and hefty meat at pod Aniolami at 35 Grodzka).

The still newer magnet of tourist attraction has been, inevitably, *Schindler's Ark*. Oskar Schindler's factory still stands; the site of the wartime ghetto is marked by some fragments of wall while efforts are being made to clean up and cheer up the old Jewish quarter, which once made Krakow rich as well as famous for its tolerance. No amount of Hollywoodisation, however, can make palatable what happened in Krakow as elsewhere in Central Europe. Auschswitz lies only 70km, or an hour and a half by bus, away. It is a powerful and profoundly humbling experience. There are two camps, not one. The first was in the old Austro-Hungarian barracks, used at first as a prison for political opponents (hence the dispiriting counter-claims of victimhood) and then as the first experimental gas chambers. But it is the second camp, a vast purpose-built field of wooden sheds, erected on the spur of the main railway and intended for mass extinction at the fastest possible rate, that really haunts. The main gate still stands high over the rail lines along with the mangled wreckage of the gas chambers, blown up by the retreating guards. Most of the sheds have rotted away leaving a desolate landscape of brick chimneys and barbed wire. "You get used to it," said the English-speaking guide in flat tones, "until occasionally you take round a survivor." As a visitor you don't get used to it, not even the young who come in surprising numbers to see what is no part of their lives.

And yet it should be. The Jews won't return to Poland, not in any numbers: a people untimely ripped from the continent in a spasm of annihilation that Europe can neither quite comprehend nor come to terms with. Krakow is there, one of Europe's most engaging cities with a past to show and a future as part of the European Union. I can think of no more rewarding place to go for a long weekend. But you can't build a new Europe without some sense of the tragedy of the old.

Adrian Hamilton bought his trip to Krakow through British Airways Holidays (0870 242 4243). A three-night city break, including flights, transfers and 3/4 star bed and breakfast accommodation costs £329 per person up to 25 March

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Seduced by an Arctic roll

Riksgränsen is not only Europe's most northerly ski resort but it is also a Mecca for snowboarders. By **Stephen Wood**

For most European ski resorts, stocktaking has already started. With the two peak periods of Christmas week and the February holidays over, they can now assess what sort of season 1998/9 will prove to be. For some of them, of course, the simple profit-and-loss account will be overshadowed by the cost – in terms of avalanche damage and loss of life – of the heavy snowfalls which, a few weeks ago, were a source merely of optimism.

Things are different up in Riksgränsen, 150 miles inside the Arctic Circle in Swedish Lapland. There the season has only just got under way: because of the short midwinter days, and the flat light cast on the slopes by the low sun, the resort opens in the middle of February and closes – after a March/April peak – in late June. Stocktaking at Riksgränsen will begin in May when, on a good day, skiers will be out on the slopes dressed only in T-shirts and shorts.

As a winter-sports destination, this small corner of the Arctic wastes has a reputation which varies between "Where?" and "Wow!". To Swedish skiers and boarders, Riksgränsen has a truly international name, one which translates literally as "state border". Originally nothing more than a spot where Sweden and Norway met, it still – so the resort's marketing manager told me – sounds to non-skiers like an incomplete address. For skiers, however, its location permits the rare pleasure of going down a piste, the Gränsleden, which begins and ends in one country but switches for most of its length into another.

The "Wow!" response comes from snowboarders: for them, Riksgränsen is one of the world's winter-sport capitals. Its reputation is based on the terrain – the undulating dips and crests of its off-piste area make it a natural "fun park" – and has been built up both by the resort's clever marketing, and snowboarding sponsors' desire to keep their brand-names in the public eye until the early summer. With only a 400m vertical descent, it doesn't seem to offer much to downhill skiers. But for anyone seduced by the singular atmosphere and miraculous landscape of Arctic Scandinavia – since this is the third season running that I have travelled there to ski, I must count myself a victim – visiting Europe's most northerly ski resort is irresistible.

Oddly, Riksgränsen owes its existence to Europe's biggest iron-ore mine, based 75 miles to the south-west in Kiruna. To exploit the rich seam of ore a railway was built across the mountains to the port of Narvik, on Norway's Atlantic coast. Built in several sections from 1884 onwards, the single-track railway was finally completed when Norwegian and Swedish rails were linked at Riksgränsen in 1902.

At the time, the two countries were also linked, in a national union; and this symbolic junction demanded an appropriate gesture – a railway station which was then the second biggest in Sweden (bigger even than Stockholm's, so I was told), with separate waiting rooms for all three classes, an adjoining hotel, and enclosed tracks with doors at either end to keep the cold out.

A dozen years later this absurd white elephant was demolished, its timbers taken away to be used for building houses. But in 1930, Swedish Railways embarked on another attempt to make something of Riksgränsen, by building a hotel for visiting skiers. Taken over by a national youth organisation soon afterwards, the resort flourished, and the country's first ski-school was established there in 1932; a succession of subsequent owners installed more lifts, and built apartments.

The original 1930 hotel has become the reception area of a large complex – still, admittedly, with something of a youth-organisation flavour, except down in the basement, where the Lapplandia restaurant serves extraordinarily good food at up-market prices (main courses from about £10). The menu supposedly reflects Lapland cuisine; whether the indigenous Sami people usually put an avocado and feta cheese crust on their salmon I couldn't say, but I certainly didn't complain.

A ski area whose lifts (one two-seater chair and one three-seater, plus four drag-lifts) climb only to 909 metres clearly couldn't match the heights achieved by the cooking in the hotel's basement. The pistes, mainly easy reds, all run down a north-facing slope into the huge valley; and you could cover them in a single morning. But as was obvious from a first ride up the chair-lift from the resort base, on-piste skiing is not what Riksgränsen is about.

Beneath the lift, snowboarders darted down the gulleys between the rocks and searched out ridges from which to attempt – usually unsuccessfully – ambitious flips and spins. Elsewhere, on off-piste areas between and beyond the marked runs, telemarkers knelt into the soft snow on their way down, and tourers used their ski-skins to climb up. Alpine skiers such as myself were easily outnumbered.

Riksgränsen habitually opens with one-and-a-half metres of snow; this season it had only 70cm. With the limited snow cover available, many of the pistes had not been groomed. So the one black run remained a very challenging lumpy snow-field; and the blue run down to the bottom of the lifts was a switchback ride with some significant ascents between the descents.

The latter was, however, the resort's most enjoyable run, a lonely trek across the ski face towards an escarpment from which, across the railway, the road (built only in 1985) and the frozen lake, the awesome Arctic valley opened up, spreading about 25 miles to the east.

Was it cold? Yes, freezing: at least minus 10 degrees centigrade. But it was good, too – with another dinner at the Lapplandia restaurant still to come.

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Riksgränsen's undulating dips and crests create a natural "fun park" for snowboarders *Peter Gray*

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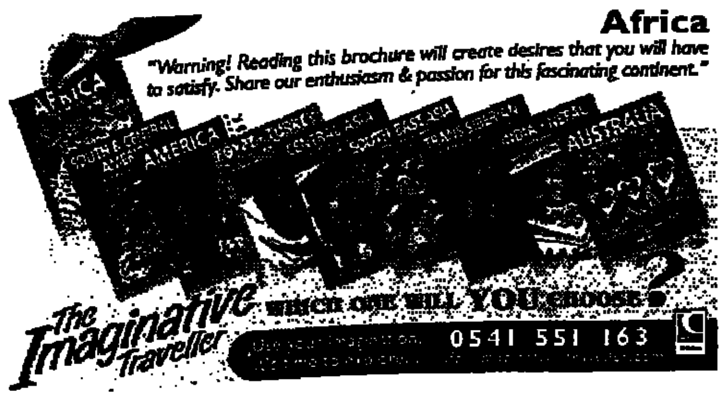
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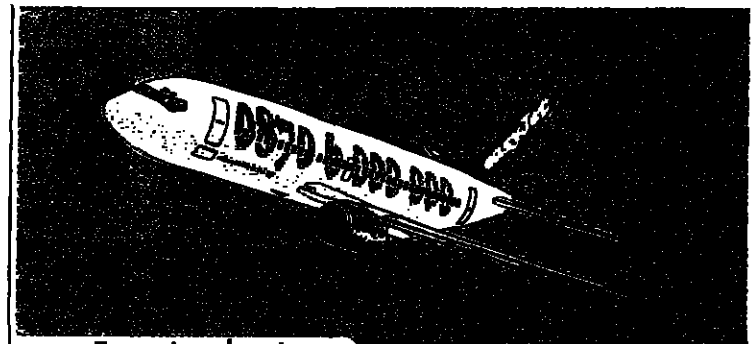

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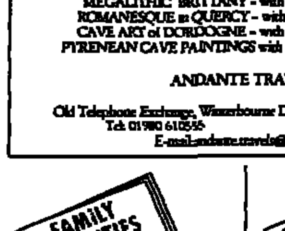

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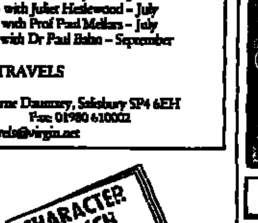

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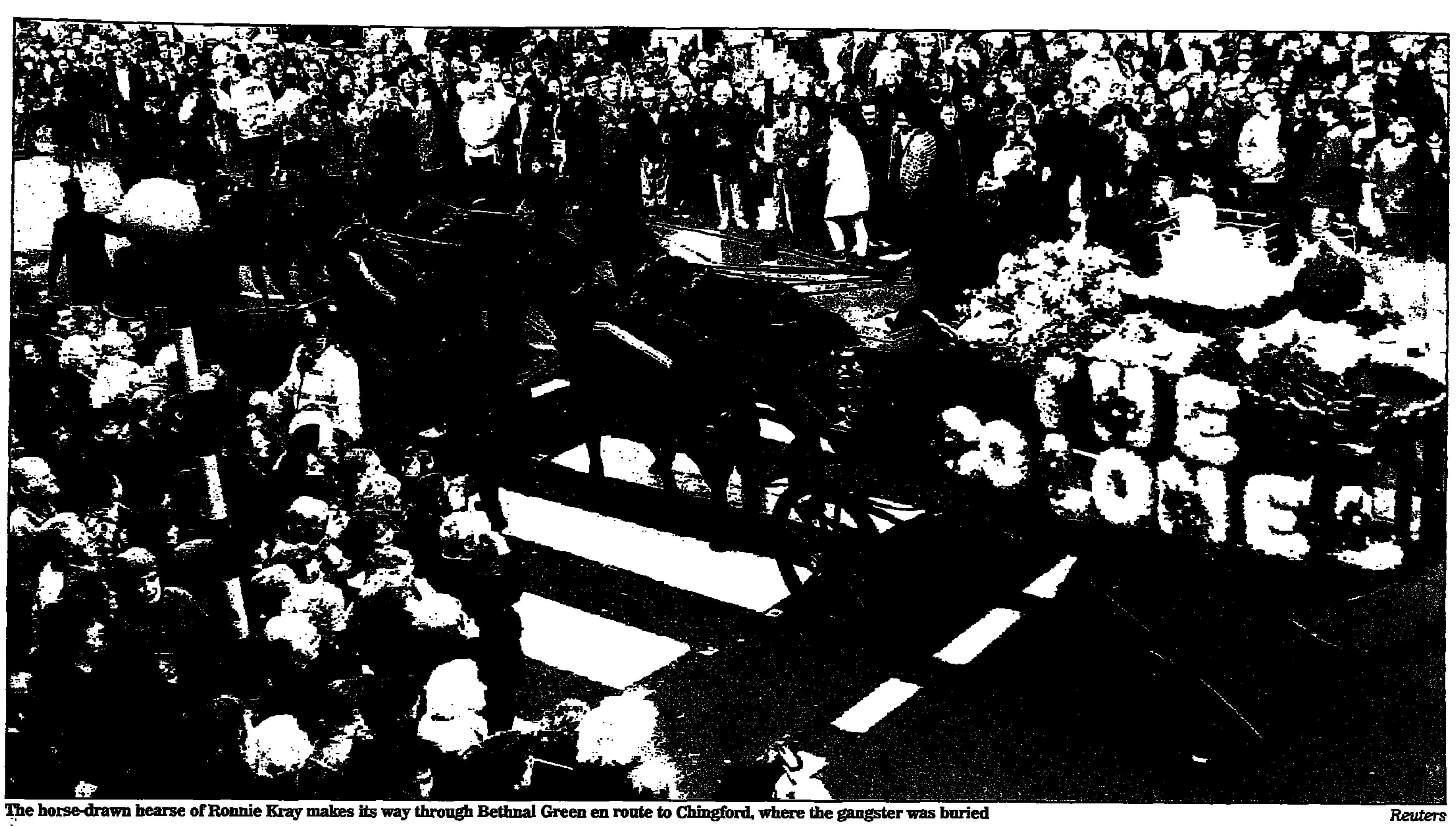
Where rivals feared to tread

Trails of the unexpected: through the old east-London stamping grounds of Ronnie and Reggie Kray. By **Ed Glinert**


The horse-drawn hearse of Ronnie Kray makes its way through Bethnal Green en route to Chingford, where the gangster was buried *Reuters*

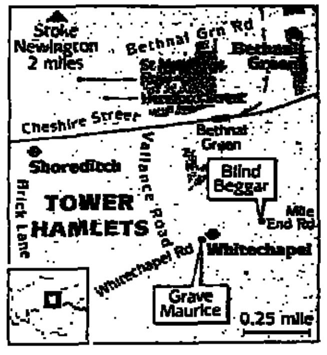
On 8 March 1969 the Kray twins, Reggie and Ronnie, were sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering fellow gangsters, George Cornell and Jack "The Hat" McVitie. Justice Stevenson recommended that the twins serve "not less than 30 years", a term that ends on Monday. Ronnie won't be coming out. The younger of the two died of a heart attack in Broadmoor four years ago. Reggie, who has since got married and found God, and dreams of settling down as a country gentleman in Suffolk, is still inside.

A mile and a half east of the Old Bailey, where they were sentenced, lies the Krays' main stamping-ground, Bethnal Green, now home to London's biggest Bangladeshi community. Brick Lane, with its scores of curry houses and famous Sunday flea market, is a major London attraction but the streets running off to the east are less inviting.

One of these is Cheshire Street, its ugly Victorian terraces converted to shops at ground level. Here, just before St Matthew's Row, stands a grim-looking pub, the Carpenters Arms. This was the last establishment the twins owned and was where Reggie had a few stiff drinks to get his nerve up the night he murdered Jack "The Hat" in 1966. St Matthew's Row leads to St Matthew's Church, site of Ronnie Kray's funeral. When Frank Sinatra's "My Way" was played during the service, Reggie broke down in tears.

Outside vast crowds gathered to watch the cortège, drawn by two plumed black horses, as it made its way through the East End, on to Chingford, where Kray was buried. Further along Cheshire Street, at the corner with Hereford Street, stands the now-disused Repton Boxing Club where the Krays learnt their southpaw grammar in the Forties. The twins became two of the most fearsome schoolboy boxers on the circuit, *following in the steps of their grandfather,* John Lee, himself known as "The Southpaw Cannonball".

Before long Cheshire Street meets Vallance Road, the Krays' main manor. They were raised at number 178, "Fort Vallance", where they kept a Luger automatic, revolvers, sawn-off shotguns and a Mauser beneath the floorboards. A sword was always to hand. This was the twins' gangland headquarters until 1966 when the council slapped a compulsory purchase order on the row and pulled it down. A housing association property now stands on the site.



Vallance Road is cut in two by a huge railway viaduct, its arches filled with scrap-metal merchants and car dealers. During the Second World War the houses, including No 178, were known as "Deserters' Corner". The Krays' father Charles spent the war on the run, once hiding in the coal cellar while an official searched the house. When the official went to open the door to the cellar Ronnie Kray interjected: "Do you think my old man would be daft enough to hide anywhere as obvious as that?" The ruse worked.

At the height of the Krays' power their East End fiefdom was challenged by the Richardsons from south London. A parley was held in the Grave Maurice, a dark boozer at 269 Whitechapel Road, next to the Tube station. Ronnie Kray acted as "peacemaker" (his own word) in an argument between a Richardson acolyte, George Cornell, whom he was later to shoot dead, and a car dealer, Thomas "Ginger" Marks, whom Cornell later killed. The attempt to make peace was doomed to failure.

On the morning of March 8 1966 there was a shoot-out at a club in Catford. A Kray ally, Richard Hart, was killed and, in revenge, the Krays decided to take out a Richardson. Only Cornell was out of jail. Cornell, who had angered Ronnie Kray by calling him a "fat poof", was in the Blind Beggar pub, a few hundred yards east of the Grave Maurice at 337 Whitechapel Road, sitting on a stool beside the small, U-shaped bar and supping a light ale. When Ronnie Kray and an accomplice, Ian Barrie, walked in, the jukebox was playing the Walker Brothers' "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore". Cornell turned round, saw Kray and exclaimed, "Well, look who's here then." They were his last words. Barrie fired a shot into the ceiling. Ron aimed between Cornell's eyes and shot him dead. In the commotion the needle of the jukebox stuck in the middle of the song on the word "anymore... anymore... anymore..."

The Blind Beggar is owned by a Japanese company these days. According to the manager, "at least one person a day wants to know where George Cornell was shot and look at the bullet-hole, but it's all been completely changed and the hole is no longer there."

The other place where the Krays were involved in murder was a basement flat at 97 Evering Road, Stoke Newington, two miles north of Bethnal Green. Once Ronnie Kray had shot Cornell, Reggie needed to equal the score. A likely target was Jack "The Hat" McVitie, a villain with whom the twins had fallen out. McVitie was lured to the flat on the night of October 28 1967 on the pretext of a party. When McVitie asked "Where's all the birds, all the booze?", Reggie replied by pointing a gun at his head and firing. The gun jammed. As McVitie tried to escape through the window his hat fell off; he couldn't get away and so Reggie picked up a carving knife and pushed it into his face.

The murder done, Reggie Kray drove back to the East End and stopped beside the humped-back bridge over the Regent's Canal, Suicide Bridge, to throw the guns and murder knife into the water. Iain Sinclair named his 1978 collections of poems about East London myths "Suicide Bridge", in honour of the spot.

Back to Whitechapel, from the Blind Beggar it's a short walk up the A11 to the Perfect Fried Chicken and Ribs takeaway at 106 Mile End Road. The Kentucky Club was upstairs in the Sixties, one of the many nightclubs the Krays opened. The Kentucky's biggest night was the March 1962 party held to celebrate the première of the cockney comedy film *Sparrers Can't Sing*, starring Barbara Windsor, no less, which had been held opposite in the Empire Cinema (now disused).

South of Mile End Tube station is the site of the billiard hall on Eric Street, the Krays' first commercial venture in the Fifties. It gave them a foothold and made money by being used as a storehouse for other criminals' knock-off gear and weapons. The hall has long since been demolished and an old people's home now stands peacefully on the site.

JASPER REES

The construction industry and the docusoap were made for each other, much as Sodom was made for Gomorrah

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Day 9 Taskino. Most of the day will be spent cruising. A short stop will be made in the countryside near Taskino
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Most creatures on this planet have to have an innate sense of direction to cross space to breed and feed – but printed maps can sometimes help *Magali Del Porte*

The ways of the world

Maps can reveal as much about whoever devises them as about what they are supposed to depict. By **Nick Rankin**

The Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges has a teasing fable about an antique land, whose surveyors made "a map of the empire whose scale was that of the empire, and which coincided point for point with it". When later generations sickened of such grandiosity it was abandoned, and now, in some remote western deserts, only tattered relics of the map still survive, "inhabited by animals and beggars".

It's a good joke, making the representation as big as the thing it represents, but maps in history have often been no laughing matter. In the south of Borges' own homeland, near terrains disputed by Chile and Britain, I have seen border guards confiscate and destroy travellers' maps that do not conform to patriotic geography. Countries go to war over the maps that define their frontiers; maps have power because they reflect political power. Every map is a point of view and each choice of the map-maker may reveal far more than is consciously intended.

"A man sets out to draw the world," wrote Borges in 1960. "Over the years, he peoples a space with images of provinces, kingdoms, mountains, bays, ships, islands, fishes, rooms, instruments, stars, horses and individuals. Shortly before he dies, he discovers that that careful labyrinth of lines traces the features of his own face."

In fact, there were maps long before writing and printing. The waggle-dance of the honey-bee, precisely directing fellow insects to a source of nectar, is a sort of aerial map; the body movements and pheromone messages of certain ant species are chemical maps. Most creatures on this circling planet, with its gravity and its seasons, its light and its dark, have to have an innate sense of location and direction, because they need to cross space to feed and to breed. Migrating birds and fish and whales, for example, carry no atlases but mostly arrive exactly where they want to.

The history of life, it has been said, is the history of crossing new thresholds, expanding, exploring, evolving. Maps encode the information and memory of that process. In the broadest sense, maps are as old as minds. Making a square map of a round world was one of the lesser problems of those civilisations that incorporated other peoples' territories into their empires. The indigenous inhabitants of Africa, Asia and America had their own maps since those who live off the land know it most intimately, but how they conceived of their space was probably quite different from the invaders' view. Similarly, in Australia, the songlines of the Dreamtime are a different kind of record from a European mineral-prospector's survey of the outback.

Maps are little models of the world. When the writer Robert Louis Stevenson was travelling in the western Pacific in the late 19th century, he obtained some "stick-maps" in Micronesia – frames of interwoven strips of bamboo with shells sewn on to show the relative distances of islands, used by traditional navigators. Stevenson was interested in these artefacts because he loved maps.

He began his first novel in August 1881 by taking over his 12-year-old stepson's painting of an island, colouring and naming it until it began to inspire his imagination: "As I pored upon my map of Treasure Island, the future characters of the book began to appear there visibly among imaginary woods."

Maps alter our view of reality. The real shape of the different railway lines of the London Underground system was a sloppy tangle of spaghetti until 1933, when a man called Harry Beck reorganised it into a diagrammatic map that has become a design classic as well as an icon of London itself.

Today, on a planet gridded by the meridians of a shared time-space continuum, ringed by global positioning satellites, blinking with interlinked computers, the digital possibilities of depicting the world, and the cosmos, seem limitless. "Net" and "web" and "map" are all fitting together. When children meet maps, and find their place on them, their consciousness expands. It can be true for adults too. As Oscar Wilde once observed: "A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which humanity is always landing. And when humanity lands there, it looks out, and, seeing a better country, sets sail."

Nick Rankin's programme, 'Mapping the World', starts today at 9.30pm on BBC World Service (repeats Sunday at 5.30pm and Wednesday at 2.30pm). This article is reproduced with permission from 'BBC On Air' magazine, the BBC's international programme guide (subscription £18 a year, details 0171-557 2211)

No map, no guidebook, no problem ... well almost

A map and a guidebook are not essential for exploring Tbilisi in Georgia, but, if you don't speak the language, they would certainly help. By **Pat Yale**

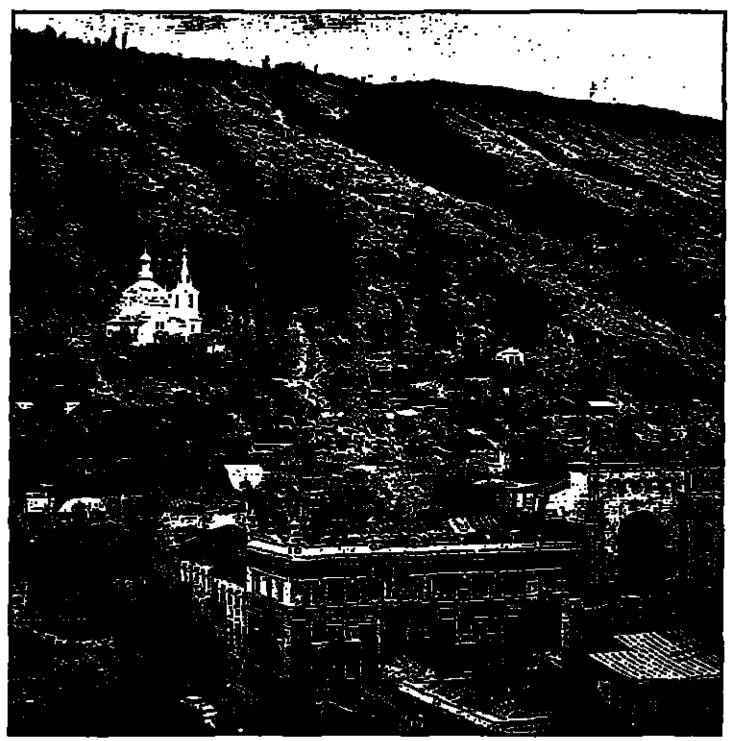
AS THE bus from Trabzon pulls into a muddy parking lot on the outskirts of Tbilisi, a taxi driver rushes to snare me. "Where to?" he asks, but I've carelessly arrived in Georgia without either map or guidebook. To make matters worse, the only words of Georgian in my bag are a list of toasts supplied by the Bristol-Tbilisi Association lest I chance upon any banquets along the way.

Thank God for a better-prepared Japanese traveller who whips out a map. "To the station," he commands and the taxi duly speeds off. On the fourth floor of a grim concrete monstrosity masquerading as a hotel an equally grim concierge forces open a door and demands $10 for a room with a threadbare blanket, a leaky sink and toilets three floors down.

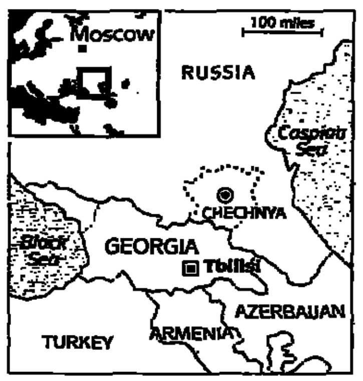
"No, no, no," I hear myself chanting, which begs the question of where I think I'm going to sleep in this unknown city when I don't have a single piece of blue-chip information to go on. The Japanese traveller flags down a second taxi. "To the Hotel Iveria," he commands.

One glance at the bed rolls and washing festooning this concrete copy of Centrepoint and the driver's grudging compliance is understandable. For the "guests" here are all refugees, their wretched half-life mocked by the luxury of river views from their balconies.

Snatching the initiative, the driver heads on to the Hotel Ajara, an Identikit city office block. "Thirty three dollars," the receptionist sneers. Help! Luckily a third taxi driver takes pity on me. "Yes, yes, cheap hotel. Very good. Three dollars," he beams. So I hop in beside him and hope. Now at last things look up: in the spotless lobby of a homely suburban mansion, a receptionist peeps from between neatly parted curtains. She and the driver confer in whispers for what seems as long to me as the bus ride from the border. Eventually the deal is done. The price has mysteriously risen to $25 but for that I get not just a bed but a table and chairs, a sofa, a TV and (oh joy!) a bath.



Tbilisi, where dumplings are a fast-food favourite *RHPL*



A good night's sleep and one power cut later, I'm stepping out towards the Metro full of enthusiasm for the unknown. The fact that there's no name displayed on the outside doesn't initially perturb me. After all everyone knows there are always maps of underground railway systems in the ticket offices.

Except, I discovered, in Tbilisi. With sinking heart, I descend to the platform and stare, confounded, at untransliterated Georgian and Russian. I turn tail and slink away, comforting myself I didn't know which station to head for anyway.

Salvation materialises in the form of the flashy Europa restaurant and an English-speaking waitress who feeds me details of Avlabari and the historic city centre. One last taxi ride and I'm gliding past a promising array of barrel-domed churches and stretches of old city wall.

Avlabari overhangs the River Mktvari, the balconies of its wooden houses clinging photogenically to a cliff-face. From there it's a short walk to Sololaki, which boasts all the tourist attractions a girl could want: sulphur baths, a mosque, craftsmen carving cameos from Siberian mammoth tusks, restaurants purporting to offer Georgian delicacies, even a hillside fortress.

There a carpet dealer presents me with a map. Thus sensibly equipped at last, I can saunter confidently along Rustavelis Avenue, the Bond Street of Tbilisi where soda fountains dispense liquid refreshment for 10p a shot and fast-food shops do a roaring trade in steamed dumplings.

On day three I brave the Metro again. Hazarding a guess which way I want, I board a train and, eureka, there's a map revealing that just one line loops round the city, with a branch running off to my hotel.

There I try handing the new receptionist $25 for a fourth night's stay. But "This is Georgia," she insists, "You must pay in lari." Seventeen of them, in fact, or just $10. The long delay at check-in makes sense now. Taxi driver and receptionist were cashing in on my ignorance. But so what? I know my way around Tbilisi. Another week and I'd be writing the guidebook.

Return flights to Tbilisi cost £555 with Georgian Airways (01444 415472). British citizens will need to contact the Georgian Embassy (0891 600558) for a visa. A 14-day tourist visa costs £19

THE SHOPPING FORECAST

Gadget of the Week
National Time Trails

Map fanatics will delight in English Heritage's new series of maps, which has just been launched as part of its 1999 tourist initiative. The 45 nationwide "Discover Your Heritage" Time Trails are designed to encourage people to explore their local history, and range from a two-mile Romancing the Thames walk in west London to a hundred-mile Fire! Fire! Blasts, Burns and Bangs trail around the East Midlands. For a free national map – outlining all 45 trails – or a more detailed regional map, call the Time Trails Hotline on 0171-973 3399, visit www.english-heritage.co.uk; or ask at any English Heritage property.

Journey to the Source
No 5: The Panama Hat

Tropical travellers in search of the ultimate accessory would do well to put Ecuador on their itinerary – *it's* home to the panama hat (pictured).

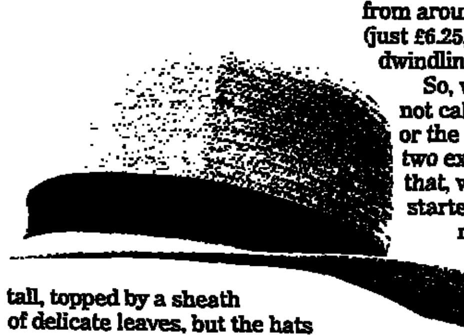
Although this classic piece of straw-woven headgear can be purchased in Panama and was apparently made famous by Ferdinand de Lesseps (who attempted, unsuccessfully, to build the Panama Canal while protecting his balding head with a locally made hat), in fact the panama has little to do with that country and much more to do with Ecuador.

Long associated with American gangsters (the wide-brimmed variety is still often referred to as the *El Capone*), according to the *Insight Guide to Ecuador* (£16.99, APA), fine straw hats were woven in Ecuador long before the *conquistadores* arrived, but became fashionable in Europe by the late 19th century and reached a peak in the late 1940s.

These days, the panama is still a classic item of clothing, if not entirely fashionable. If you want to see how they're made, head for Montecristi. This peaceful town, close to Ecuador's south-western coast, has been home to hat-making for the last 150 years.

Hats are strung together here from the fronds of a South American plant, *Carludovica palmata*. The best *superfino* hats are made from the thinnest, lightest straw. It is woven together so tightly that it can take up to three months to complete a single hat – by which time, when turned upside down, it should be able to hold water without leaking and fold neatly into a pocket without creasing or crumpling.

The stalks of the *Carludovica palmata* plants can grow up to about six metres tall, topped by a sheath of delicate leaves, but the hats themselves are made from the fronds inside the stalks, each about a metre long. These are collected, dried, boiled in water for an hour and then dried out in the sun for a day.



When the fronds are ready, the hats are woven into shape by local women and children and sent – untrimmed – by the middlemen to the relevant factory to be trimmed, bleached, hand-ironed and pounded into shape by the exporter.

Many visitors to Ecuador stop off in Montecristi to buy themselves a panama hat from the local weavers – or any of the other woven items on sale in the town – and try to get themselves a bargain.

Originally founded as an inland refuge from pirates, these days the town has a worn air about it, its streets decorated with rows of crumbling colonial houses and a beautiful church. Eloy Alfaro, who was president of Ecuador at the turn of the century, was born in Montecristi, and his house is now open to the public.

Unsurprisingly, the town is a good place to get a favourite old hat repaired or, indeed, to buy a brand new one.

Alternatively, head further north and seek out some suitable summer headwear in Becal, a small town about 85km south of Merida in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula.

This is the other prime panama hat production site, according to the new *AA Mexico Explorer* guide (£14.99). A locally made hat, constructed from the wonderfully named *jipijapa* palm leaf, will cost from around 100 Mexican pesos (just £6.25, thanks to the dwindling Mexican currency).

So, why is the panama hat not called the Ecuador hat or the Mexico hat? Here are two explanations; the first is that, when the country started exporting hats, nobody knew where Ecuador was. Since Panama was in the news at that time, it was decided to name them panama hats; the second story is that it was a mistake made by some 19th-century gold-miners who forgot where they bought their functional and funky hats from.

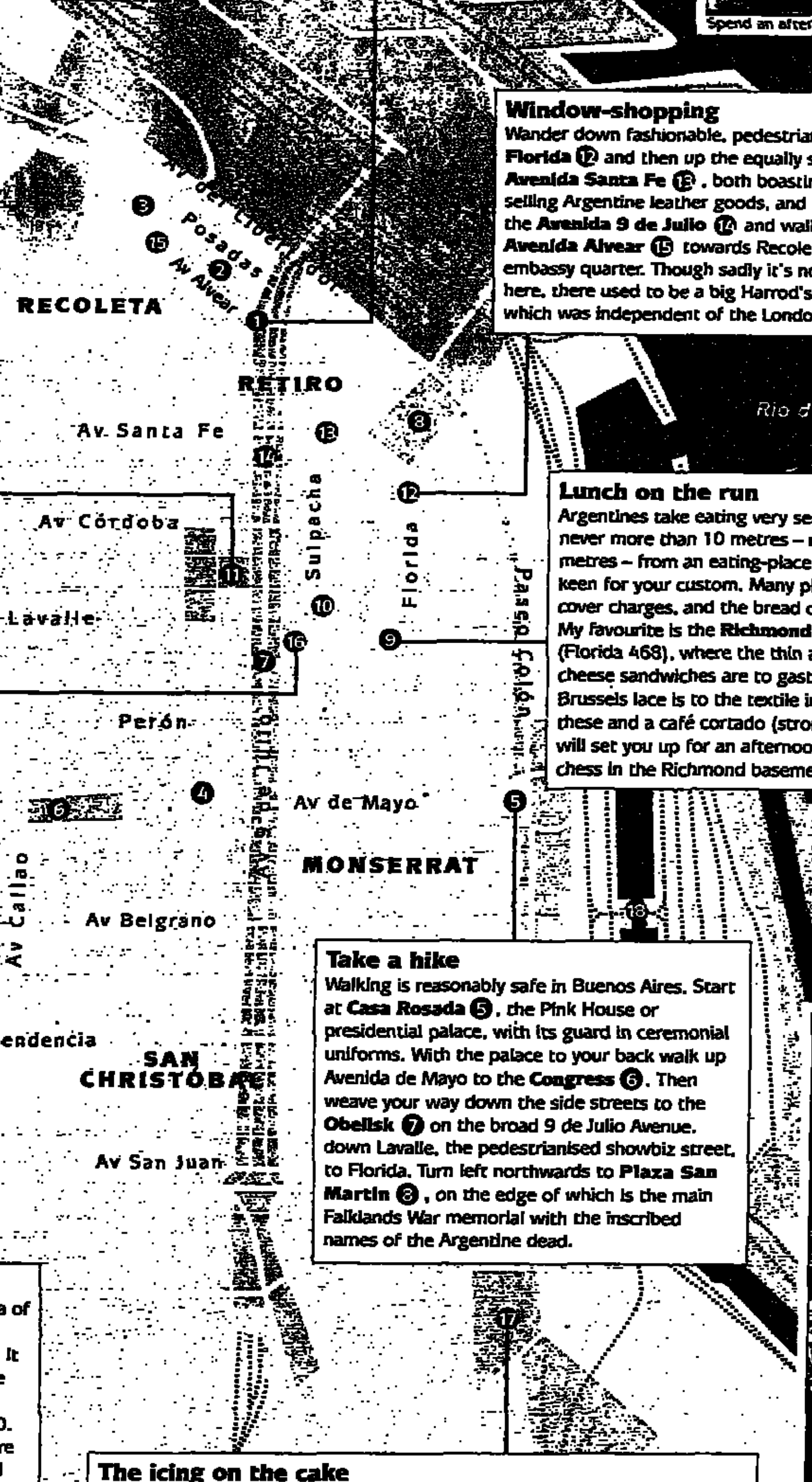
Whatever the story, if you feel your summer wardrobe is in need of a panama, you have two choices. You can either make your way to Bates the Hatter (0171-734 2722) on Jermyn Street and pick up a panama for upwards of £52, or you could head off in search of some winter sun on a flight to Mexico. If you fly off before 25 March, you can take advantage of Continental's special offer fare of £428 (from South American Experience, 0171-976 5511) from Gatwick to Merida. But, if you were hoping to bring back some hats to pay for your ticket,be warned that you'd have to make room in your suitcase for at least 60 hats.

RHIANNON BATTEN

هكذا من الاصل

48 hours ... in Buenos Aires

Fares to the Argentine capital are lower than they've been for 20 years, making the ultimate weekend break a real possibility. **Hugh O'Shaughnessy** guides you through the heart and soul of the city enjoying a lingering summer



Why go now?

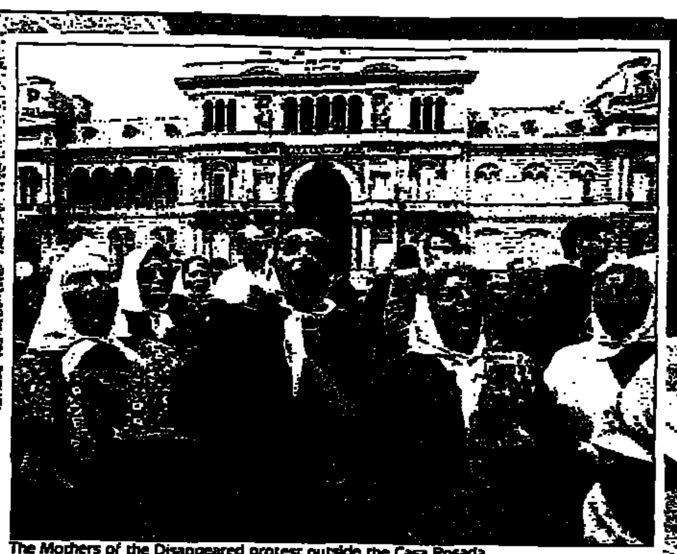
It's a particularly sweltering summer in South America this year, and anyone who has seen the northern European winter out will need a few days somewhere hot in March. And, if you go now, you can help the Windsors to mend Anglo-Argentine relations. Prince Charles leaves for Buenos Aires this month, the first royal visit since that ghastly business in the South Atlantic in 1982. Union Flags haven't been waved in the city's streets for 17 years so be in on the beginning of a new love-in.

Beam down

Competition to the Argentine capital means that fares are lower now than they have been for the last 20 years. Aerolineas Argentinas (0171-494 1001) has a fare of £480 from Heathrow via Madrid.

For the non-stop British Airways flight from Gatwick, Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) has a special fare of £533: you must book before 26 March.

Ezeiza international airport is 35km from the city centre. Manuel Tienda Leon has run a bus service from there ever since the late General Perón was in nappies. The buses whiz down the motorway for the equivalent of £8. Licensed taxis are about three times this price but avoid cowboy taxis unless you want to lose money and your temper.



The Mothers of the Disappeared protest outside the Casa Rosada

Cultural afternoon

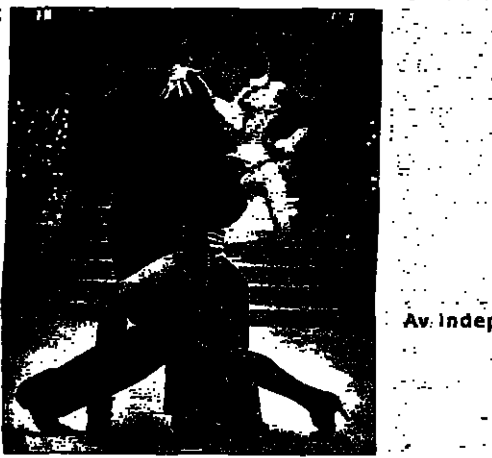
The Confitería Ideal ⑩ (Suipacha 384) is a marvellous tea-shop, much older and more ornate than the Richmond, and the first floor hosts tango clubs every afternoon. Go there to polish up your steps so you can wow them back home. Alternatively, head for the **Teatro Colón,** ⑪ the world's largest opera house, sited on 9 de Julio, the world's widest avenue. It holds 4,500 and is the lasting monument to the days, a century ago, when Buenos Aires was aspiring to be the Paris of the Southern Hemisphere. The season starts with La Traviata tomorrow and goes on almost till Christmas with stars such as Alfredo Kraus, Frederika von Stade and Samuel Ramey. Even if you don't like all that singing and acting stuff, don't miss a guided tour of the building.

A walk in the park

The principal problem for those wanting a walk – or a jog – in the park is that there is too much choice. Much of the north of the city in the Palermo district is given over to a succession of public parks that stretch for miles along the river Plate. Keep beside the river and watch the hopeful anglers try their luck in the chocolate-coloured waters, or go inland and enjoy the statuary dedicated to long-dead generals striking heroic poses on oversized horses.

Demure dinner

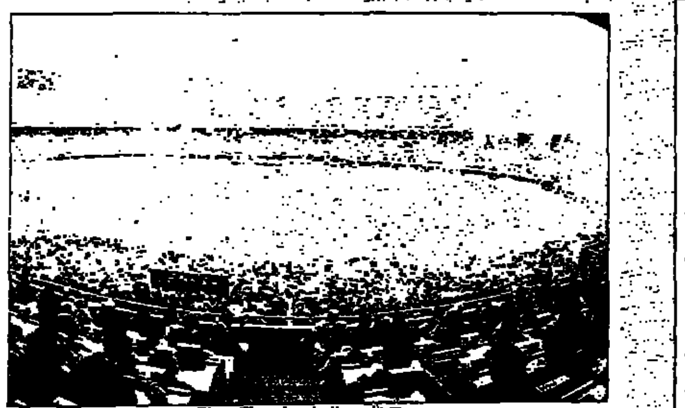
You'll be able to get a good meal anywhere, since any eating place serving unattractive food soon goes out of business (Burger King and McDonald's being the sole exceptions to this rule). This is beef-eating country, however, so if you want to try the parillada (the local version of the barbecue) **La Rural** ⑯ at Suipacha 453 is recommended.



Polish up your tango while you're in town

Take a ride

The Buenos Aires underground, the Subte, (from Subterráneo) was the first to be constructed in Latin America, and is well worth the 50 cent fare. Its stations gleam with ceramic tiles portraying idealised scenes of Argentine life. Recently privatised, the Subte, under its new owners, is trying to catch up on years of neglect. Take the Subte to Retiro and then continue on the overground train to Tigre, the stop where the tropical, jungly delta of the Parana river ends and the river Plate begins. The train goes through the northern parts of the city, past the River Plate football stadium and the presidential estate of Olivos and allows you to look into the back gardens of the middle class in leafy suburbs such as La Lucila or Martinez, the Surbiton of the Southern Hemisphere.



Catch some action at the River Plate football stadium

Sunday morning: go to church

About 90 minutes west, by bus, is the Basilica of Luján, the Lourdes of the New America, to which millions of Argentines come every year. It has its origins in the late 17th century but the present basilica, South American French medieval in style, was not completed till 1930. There are frequent masses from 8am and more stands selling rosary beads than anyone could possibly want.

A block away is the Museum of Colonial History with a room given over to the early 19th century attempts of the British to supplant Spanish colonial rule on the River Plate. A trip to Luján gives you a sniff of the countryside and the pampas, which stretch out for hundreds of miles in every direction from Buenos Aires.

Check in

Of the luxury hotels, the **Park Hyatt** ① (Posadas 1088), **César Park** ② (Posadas 1232, 00 54 11 4326 1234) and the **Alvear Palace** ③ (Avenida Alvear 1891, 00 54 11 4804 4031), a long-established place recently risen from the dead, are thought of as the best. At the other end of the scale the cheap **Marbella** ④ (Avenida de Mayo 1261, 00 54 11 4383 3573) is central and good.

Spend an afternoon sipping café cortados in elegant surroundings

Window-shopping

Wander down fashionable, pedestrianised **Florida** ⑫ and then up the equally stylish **Avenida Santa Fe** ⑬ , both boasting shops selling Argentine leather goods, and then cross the **Avenida 9 de Julio** ⑭ and walk on to **Avenida Alvear** ⑮ towards Recoleta and the embassy quarter. Though sadly it's no longer here, there used to be a big Harrod's in Florida which was independent of the London company.

Bracing brunch

There is a fight to the death going on between Recoleta, formerly the swishest spot in the city, and **Puerto Madero,** ⑱ a great new development near the Casa Rosada where new construction work has transformed the old docks and warehouses à la London's Canary Wharf. The restaurants are good in both places. I lunched well in the Shorthorn (Plaza la Recoleta) in the first, and equally satisfactorily in Katrine and its neighbour Happening (both in Davila) in the second. President Menem's brother Eduardo was in Happening on the day I ate lunch there, but whether that's an advantage or not depends on your attitude to Argentine politics.

Lunch on the run

Argentines take eating very seriously and you're never more than 10 metres – no, I exaggerate, 20 metres – from an eating-place whose owners are keen for your custom. Many places have abolished cover charges, and the bread comes free.

My favourite is the **Richmond Tea Room** ⑨ (Florida 468), where the thin and delicate toasted cheese sandwiches are to gastronomy what Brussels lace is to the textile industry. One of these and a café cortado (strong white coffee) will set you up for an afternoon of billiards or chess in the Richmond basement.

An aperitif

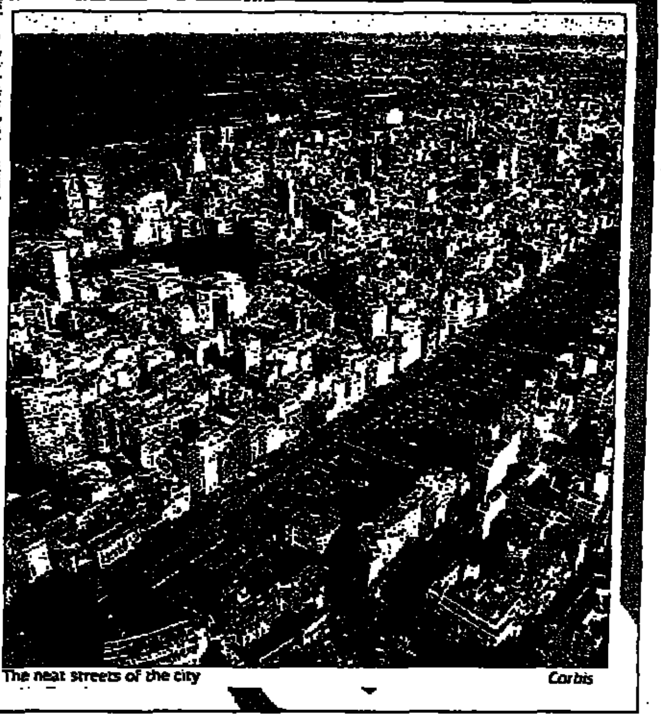
Though there are things called "whiskerias", my friend Pedro the economist says that the city has no real tradition of bars, or even pubs. When people go out they go out to eat and drink, not just to drink. If you do want to taste the local liquors you could order an Old Smuggler – pronounced "Ol' Esmooglerr" – which is the local Argentine whisky.

Take a hike

Walking is reasonably safe in Buenos Aires. Start at **Casa Rosada** ⑤, the Pink House or presidential palace, with its guard in ceremonial uniforms. With the palace to your back walk up Avenida de Mayo to the **Congress** ⑥. Then weave your way down the side streets to the **Obelisk** ⑦ on the broad 9 de Julio Avenue, down Lavalle, the pedestrianised showbiz street, to Florida. Turn left northwards to **Plaza San Martin** ⑧ , on the edge of which is the main Falklands War memorial with the inscribed names of the Argentine dead.

The icing on the cake

Take a taxi to Caseros Prison, overlooking the **Parque Lezama** ⑰ . It's a high-rise 18-storey establishment where the Argentines locked up some of their military dictators, including most recently General Videla - one of the most bloodthirsty – for trading in political prisoners' babies. Have a good look at it and then drop a postcard – with your daytime telephone number – to the President of Chile (H.E Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago de Chile) asking him why the Chileans didn't do something similar to Augusto Pinochet. You could also suggest that there is still time.



The neat streets of the city

Corbis

GLOBAL AGENDA

Montréal

IF YOU'RE the kind of traveller who spends as much time exploring the social context of your destination as its brochure-puffed hot spots, you should enjoy "Photography and Transformations of the Contemporary City: Venezia – Marghera". Conceived in 1917 by the Venetian Count Guiseppe Volpi as an expansion of Venice, Marghera, which overlooks the island from the mainland, became a model of rampant industrialisation before succumbing to urban pollution, as the shipyards, petrochemical plants and heavy industries loomed over its residential area. The show's 230 photographs by 15 contemporary photographers capture the area's complex history, reflecting concerns about the management of post-industrial society that are pertinent to cities everywhere. *Canadian Centre for Architecture, 1920 rue Baile, Montréal, Québec, Canada (00 1 514 939 7000) to 25 Apr, $3-$6*

Madrid

IN A show curated by the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, 230 of Man Ray's most important photographs will be on display at Madrid's Reina Sofia museum until the end of April. Although much of the American's fame stems from his portraits of famous contemporaries such as Picasso, Buñuel, Hemingway and his partner Lee Miller, Man Ray stretched his artistic muscles with his surrealistic prints, many of them using the process he called Solarisation. *Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, 52 Santa Isabel, Madrid, Spain (00 34 91 467 5062) to 23 Apr, closed Tuesday, Pts500*

Barbados

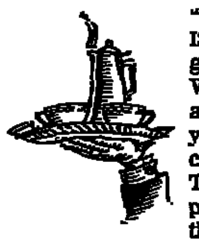
THE FORMAL gardens and parkland belonging to the 17th-century Holders House on Barbados is the location for a leading Caribbean cultural event, Holders Season. Founded in 1993, the celebration of opera, music and theatre attracts world-famous artists such as Luciano Pavarotti and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1997, who no doubt find the charms of the location hard to resist. Highlights this year include Kit Hesketh Harvey's Caribbean adaptation of *The Tempest*, starring Kylie Minogue, performances of *Kit and the Widow* by artists from London's West End and a grand finale featuring the Barbados Youth Orchestra with the Jamaican-born, internationally acclaimed bass, Willard White. *Holders House, Barbados (00 1 246 432 6385) to 20 Mar*

Throughout Europe

A LAUDABLE cultural incentive – or a canny ploy to take our minds off delays at some of Europe's busier airports? The Airports Council International (ACI) has just released its cultural events calendar for 1999 and it states that not only "painting, sculpture and photographic exhibitions" but also "music performances and stage productions are becoming more and more common at airports". Items for the lounge-weary tourist's delectation this year include "150 years of Belgian Mail" at Brussels, "Hafenkonzert: Hamburg Harbour Proms" at Hamburg, and a philatelic exhibition in Menorca...

SHARON GETHINGS

24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE: GOLDENER HIRSCH HOTEL, SALZBURG



"LUXURY ISN'T about gold plating. We believe it's about feeling you have come home." This is the philosophy at the Goldener Hirsch, which at first sight is more like an old country house, transplanted into the middle of the city, than a deluxe hotel.

From the outside, only a small nameplate, and a black wrought-iron sign with a golden stag in the centre, give any indication of what is lurking behind the plain wooden door. Inside, a haphazard collection of rooms and corridors have been welded together as extra buildings have been bought and incorporated into the original house. The staff, and many of the regular visitors, regard themselves as part of a big family.

Recently, when the barman left after many years service, guests flew in from all over the world to wish him well. Many of those who stay are music-lovers attending the festivals, or tourists visiting the city; Salzburg (pictured) is not really a business destination. The hotel is in the middle of Getreidegasse, down the road from the Festschpielhaus, Salzburg's concert hall complex, and up the road from Mozart's birthplace, in the heart of the old city. Among the cafés and restaurants in this area are some of the city's most expensive shops.

The restaurant is so popular with locals that it isn't always possible to get a table even if you are staying at the hotel, unless you have booked in advance – up to a year ahead sometimes, since this is *the* place to eat after a festival performance.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Hotel Goldener Hirsch, Getreidegasse 37, A-5020 Salzburg (00 43 662 8084) or www.austria.at/goldener_hirsch

Transport: Since Getreidegasse is in the heart of the pedestrianised old city, you will have to be prepared to walk a bit, but the location is ideal for all the main sights.

Time to Salzburg airport: About 20 minutes by taxi; the airport is a couple of miles from the city centre.

Time to the railway station: 10 minutes by taxi

ARE YOU LYING COMFORTABLY?

There are 70 rooms, all slightly different from each other; some are non-smoking. The standard is five-star throughout and all the rooms have pieces of original Bauern-style furniture – hand-painted cupboards and chests typical of Austrian country homes. The more modern pieces complement the antiques.

Beds: Standard size single or double beds, with huge duvets and plenty of pillows.

Freebies: Every kind of toiletry, as well as slippers; bathrobes are provided.

Temperature: Every room has individual controls for heating and air-conditioning.

Bathroom: All the rooms have baths, and some also have a separate shower. The marble fittings and hand-made towels come from Italy.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Television: Various European TV stations; the only programmes in English are provided by CNN.

Radio: Blue Danube radio is a Vienna-based English-language service, but it's not quite up to Radio 4 standards.

Phone/Fax/Internet: All the rooms have phones. There are three "smart rooms" which are equipped with an ISDN line, as well as a printer and fax. About a third of the rooms have Internet sockets, and the library is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, carefully concealed behind panels and cupboards.

Newspapers: the *International Herald Tribune*, *USA Today* and various local papers are always available, and other requests are accommodated wherever possible. Staff pride themselves on remembering guests' tastes in newspapers, and at what time they like to receive them.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Double rooms start at AS3,600 (about £183) in the low season, with prices going up to AS5,900 (about £300) during the various festival seasons (Easter, and late July-August). The best rooms, in the Festival Wing, range from AS4,900 to AS7,500 (between £250 and £380). The buffet breakfast is one of the most sumptuous I have ever seen and costs an extra AS 290 (£15) per person.

CATHY PACKE

THE INDEPENDENT

Voice

CALL: **0897 554 555** to respond to any ad. Calls cost the normal BT premium rate of £1 per minute at all times

STRONG, SOMETIMES VULNERABLE
Responsibly hedonistic, attractive, fit, thoughtful, professional female, 33, seeking a similar male. 32-40. ☎5514

WANTED: ONE MAN
Cheerful, friendly teacher, 24, seeking a caring, active male, 25-35, who likes rabbits, music and can make me laugh. Northampton. ☎5507

PRETTY WOMAN
Interested in law, would like to meet a tall, dark and handsome, white male barrister, 29-39, who's caring and romantic, to share my interests in law, for friendship, possibly a relationship. Residing in the London area. ☎5525

ORIENTAL SPICE
Filipina lady, 42, widow, one child, honest and sincere, seeking N/S, tall, sincere and caring man, with 40-50, GSOH, must be employed, for friendship and possible relationship. ☎7767

ROMANTIC GRADUATE REQUIRED
Lady graduate, 40s, trim, no ties, enjoys country walks, wining, dining, watersports, travel, theatre, dancing, good conversation, living on the South Coast, seeking a tall, educated, slimmish gent, under 52, non-smoker, for a relationship. ☎5498

WARM WOMAN
Female, 52, seeking a warm man. Sheffield. ☎5497

AQUARIAN
Female, 38, 5'8", dark auburn hair, brown eyes, seeks tall, N/S, witty, intelligent chap, 40-50, GSOH, must love countryside, animals, visiting ancient sights, SW area. ☎4762

MAD MARCH HARE
Female, 38, loves countryside, Africa, cinema, laughter, pasta, fun, seeks for 1999 a like-minded, tall, spontaneous man, 35-45, N/S, GSOH essential. London based. ☎4763

WEST LONDON
Tall, slim, fit, attractive, independent, professional female, 45ish, likes most outdoor sports, cooking, concerts, theatre and smoky wine bars, seeking an intelligent, fun-loving and genuine, career-minded male, for a possible relationship. ☎5457

EMPTY ROOMS
Intelligent, blonde single mum, 5'6", slim build, graduate, enjoys science fiction, rock music, offbeat humour, politics, animals, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, intelligent male, 35-45 for a fusion of minds. South Wales or anywhere. ☎5382

HEY, GENTLEMAN, 60-70
You should realise what you're missing. Attractive, vivacious, educated lady, seeking an unattached, interesting, warm-hearted man. I'm great fun, a good conversationalist and I make excellent coffee. NW Manchester. ☎5448

VIBRANT WOMAN
Funny, striking, affectionate, intelligent, happy female, 39, no kids, enjoys travel, mountains, cinema, conversation, books, friends and good food, seeking a similar, professional male. Oxford area. ☎5326

MAN WANTED
Lively, intelligent, friendly female, 24, with strong Christian faith, into youth work, pubs, running, seeking a man, who makes her laugh and isn't weird. Cambridge area. ☎5506

TAUREAN SCOT
Petite, attractive, taurean woman, enjoys world travel, books, arts, good wine and flowers, seeking a soul mate, 50-60, with similar interests, located in NW England. ☎5329

NORFOLK DIVA
Independent, hard-working, professional woman, mid-50s, sometimes sparkling, seeking new male friend, to share city and country pleasures and a laugh with. No old movies. ☎5328

BRUISED POLISH FLOWER
Intelligent, vegetarian female, 37, N/S, seeks kind, gentle, sensitive, non-judgemental Christian man, with SOH, for friendship, possible relationship, evenings out and fun. ☎5456

COME INTO MY LIFE
Tall, fit, fair, slim female, 43, youthful in mind/body, seeks tall, dark-skinned male, for friendship/relationship and to cherish. Cambs. ☎5452

MAD FOR IT!
Mad, happy girl, 20, 5'7", smoker, brown/blue, enjoys gigs and chilling out, seeking funny, handsome bloke, 25-35, with similar interests, for friendship and maybe more. ☎5526

CHRISTIAN LADY
Female, 25, 5'3", auburn hair, blue eyes, GSOH, N/S, enjoys eating in or out, cinema, bowling and having fun, seeks N/S, attractive, caring, decent Christian guy, 25-30, with similar interests and GSOH. West Midlands. ☎5451

FORMER JUNOESQUE BEAUTY
Now slightly faded, to attractive grandmother, 67, seeking a true male friend, with GSOH, to share theatre, music, travel, metaphysics and a belief in miracles. NW Manchester. ☎5517

WARM AND WITTY
Attractive, interesting and wise woman, 40s, into art, music, countryside, seeking a tall, interesting male, 40-55, no ties, with a GSOH, who doesn't iron his anorak. Bristol/South. ☎5459

SEEKING SOUL MATE
Petite black woman, slim build, enjoys holidays, good food, keeping fit, seeking a male, 35-45, GSOH, for companionship, friendship/relationship. N/S preferred. ☎5521

LANCELOT...
...The Lady of the Lake beckons. Slim, petite, fit, warm, bright, intelligent, attractive widow, seeks tallish, slim, fit, gallant, special man, 50-60ish, N/S, for a long-term relationship. Near London preferably. ☎5516

FIRST-TIME ADVERTISER
Attractive, educated black female, 37, N/S, likes travel and socialising, seeks tall 30-something male, any race/nationality, for friendship, possible romance. Must be genuine and caring. East Midlands area. ☎5390

PERSONABLE PROFESSIONAL
Slim, attractive lady, mid-40s, varied interests - cinema, travel, theatre, reading, dining out, seeking a gentleman, 48-55, similar interests, for friendship, possibly leading to more. London/Surrey based. ☎5319

ARTISTIC
Well-travelled, mature female student, blonde hair, effervescent personality, seeks cultured male companion, 40-50, with bald/short hair and sparkling eyes, who loves life/travel. Any nationality. Surrey based. ☎5416

HI THERE!
Attractive, dark, artistic, divorced female, young-looking 44, teaches, writes, shops, enjoys good conversation, food, travel, films, theatre, music, varied tastes, seeking a warm, fun, intelligent man, similar age/interests. S Wales based. ☎5304

MAN FRIDAY
Attractive brunette, 27, enjoys conversation, theatre, music, cinema and good food, is seeking an honest, caring male, aged 26-33, for new adventures. London based. ☎5389

HOLDING OUT
Intelligent, attractive, slim, bubbly blonde, 30, 5'4", seeks slim, handsome, intelligent, sincere, honest, successful, professional white gentleman, 27-35, 6', athletic build, for happiness and long-term relationship. Herts/Bucks area preferably. ☎5211

ARE YOU...
...tall, craggy, 50ish, adjacent to north Bucks, fit but not fanatic, sensitive and humorous? If you like to walk, talk, play and have an idea or two, this artistic and eclectic woman, needs some loving. ☎5371

LATIN IS EXCITING?
Box 4161? Take 100? I rang you too late, so please call me! ☎5361

LOOKING FOR ENRICHMENT
Sociable, engaging, warm-hearted male, 34-38, required for sociable evenings, quality conversation and meaningful company. London area. ☎5391

EMPTY ROOMS
Intelligent, blonde single mum, 5'6", graduate, slim build, enjoys science fiction, rock music, offbeat humour, politics, animals, home life, seeking a deep-thinking, intelligent male, 35-45, for a fusion of minds. South Wales or anywhere. ☎5382

ARAB MAN SOUGHT
Italian, professional lady, seeks professional Arab man, 30-35, preferably Iranian, Pakistani or Lebanese, for friendship and more. ☎5282

SEEKING MILLENNIUM MAN
Attractive Midlands-based lawyer, 38, into tennis, dancing, cinema, theatre, seeks decent guy, who's interesting, lively and reasonably career-minded, to enjoy life and laugh with. ☎5318

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
Good-looking female, just 45, 5'4", GSOH, light brown/blue, self-employed, likes classical music, story telling, theatre, travel, arts, horse riding, sailing, sports, seeks like-minded man, also seeking a special friendship/relationship. London. ☎5640

INVESTIGATE LONDON
From smoky jazz bars to musty book shops. Female, 37, leading complicated life, seeks straightforward relationship, with chap, 40+. ☎5429

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL
Fun, serious, considered, reliable female, 27, with GSOH, enjoy dining in or out, music, singing, theatre, you name I'll try it. I'm seeking a special man to enhance my life. London. ☎5311

ATTRACTIVE AND POLITE
Feminine Continental lady, early 40s, seeks cultured man, 40+, for friendship, possibly more. London. ☎5259

FRIENDLY
Practical, professional, petite female, early 40s, GSOH, loves weekends, work, staying in, nights out, seeks happy, affectionate, intelligent, solvent male, for friendship, possibly leading to relationship. South/central London area. ☎5280

ATTRACTIVE & INTELLIGENT
Black woman, seeks man, 50-60, any nationality, who, like me, feels at times it would be nice to share the simple things, like eating together, theatre and talking. London ☎5257

SOUL MATE FOR MILLENNIUM?
Lively, professional, single woman, mid-40s, seeks sorted man, 45-55, to share various interests, such as wining, dining, cinema, countryside, books, friendship and possible relationship. Cambridge area. ☎5283

STRONG BUT SWEET
Attractive, slim, lively brunette, 30, enjoy most things in life, seeking a considerate and attractive man, to share evenings in/out with. London/Surrey. ☎5265

CREATIVE & ATTRACTIVE
Intelligent female, mid-40s, green eyes, reddish hair, freckles, seeks similar male, for fun and friendship. Sussex based. ☎5260

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?
Petite, professional lady, 30+, 5', GSOH, fun, likes travel, music, salsa, seeking a funny, professional, confident, caring gentleman, 30s-40s, to enjoy life with. Cambridgeshire area preferred. ☎5289

VINCE
Please call again, as details were lost. I would like to get in touch. Life's difficult in a call box. ☎4364

FIRST-TIME ADVERTISER
Professional, active single mum, 5'4", N/S, redhead, green eyes, likes outdoor pursuits, DIY, crafts, reading, theatre, eating in/out, seeks tall male, 45-55, N/S preferred, GSOH, nice personality, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎5276

ROMANTIC LIBRAN
Female, N/S, no ties, solvent, into antiques, films, yoga, loves life, travel, sunsets, seeks semi-retired, well-balanced male, solvent, who's slim, presentable and enjoys life. London. ☎5162

LOVELY LADY
Bath-based lady, aged 49, N/S, divorced, solvent, undomesticated, artistic, seeks caring, communicative, solvent male, 40-60, N/S, for walks, talks, laughs and cuddles. If you can cook, please ring me. ☎5299

OXFORD BASED
Tall, retired lady, 60, seeks unattached, N/S gentleman, 57-69, with comfortable lifestyle, car owner, for friendship and outings. ☎5281

EASTERN ENGLAND
Slim and attractive, independent woman, seeking a lively, energetic, professional man, N/S, into walking, countryside, sailing, films, theatre, must be emotionally available, 50ish. London and eastern England. ☎5196

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS
Articulate, athletic, artistic, amiable, attractive, professional woman, who is a funny, N/S, many interests, seeks similar male, in his 40s. West Midlands area preferred. ☎5278

ORIENTAL SPICE
Chinese female, 35, student, enjoys music, reading, films, travel, seeks a friend, 35-40, tall, slim, N/S, well educated. London area. ☎5102

BACK FROM ABROAD
Intellectual, active musical journalist, aged 36, slightly unconventional, Cambridge graduate, likes to laugh, seeks positive, well-travelled gent, similar age, to explore life. London. ☎4974

HI THERE
Genuine, polite, attractive London woman, seeking a kind, sensitive, warm man, 40+, for friendship and love. ☎5298

MISERABLE LOSER
Failed artist, early 30s, running away from all forms of responsibility, seeking a tall, attractive, intelligent, solvent, blonde or brunette lady, who doesn't pack or nag. ☎5511

DISSOLUTE MAN...
...45, 6'2", slim build, many vices, seeks female rake, who's blessed with similar attributes. London. ☎5378

FUNNY, WELL TRAVELLED
Educated 6'er, 55, seeks Ms Right, no great expectations, but if you like the things London can offer and would like great company, I'm here! ☎5510

ATTRACTIVE MALE
Would like to meet an intellectual female, for romance and relationship. ☎5431

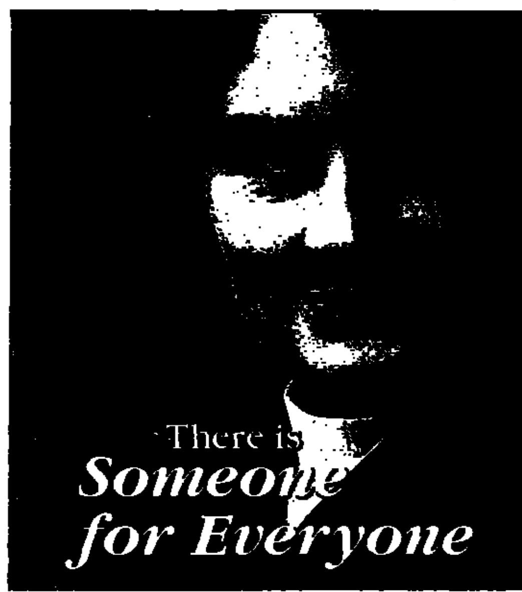
WRITER
Male, 36, 5'9", slim, Jewish, media job, thoughtful, cultured, amusing, loves modern art, classical music, country walks, is seeking a kind, compatible female, aged 22-32. ☎5327

HANDSOME KENT GRADUATE
Male, not into pubs, clubs, seeking a tall, serious, feminine, professional woman, N/S, no ties, for relationship, with a view to marriage. ☎5496

PYROMANIAC SEEKS MATCH
Male, mid-30s, slim, fit and active, seeking a similar female, for who knows what? Beds/Herts/Bucks area. ☎5331

MAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS
Author and trained lawyer, 35, 6'2", good looks, is seeking a woman, 25-35, for romance in London. ☎5446

SWEET SURRENDER
Very attractive, very dominant male, 25, seeks loving, submissive female, 18-35 for fun, friendship and love? ☎5459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BE SENSIBLE: We suggest that the first meeting always be held in a public place and that you do not reveal your full name, address or home phone number until you are comfortable doing so.

SEEKING CREATIVE MAN
Slim, attractive brunette, 45, 5'4", independent, genuine, fun, positive. London and Surrey preferred. ☎4977

LONDON LADY
Good-looking female, just 45, 5'4", GSOH, light brown/blue, self-employed, various interests, likes classical music, story-telling, theatre, travel, arts, swimming, horse riding, sailing, sports, seeks like-minded man. ☎5246

BLUE MOON
Kind, loving, sensitive, warm-hearted female, 37, attractive, creative, seeks male soul mate, of similar nature, 36-46, with GSOH, for special friendship/relationship. Herts area. ☎5101

CONTINENTAL PROFESSIONAL
Central London/Geneva man, seeks attractive, warm, tallish, cuddly lady, 50ish, for fun, friendship, travel, theatre and more. ☎5508

RARE OPPORTUNITY
Exceptional man, unexpectedly available, international company director, young 47, 6'3", successful, good-looking, kind, considerate, looking for a slim, attractive female, 30s, to share life with. Hants based. ☎5512

GERMAN/ITALIAN OPTIMIST
Tall, brown-eyed, brown-haired man, 32, into Buddhism, sailing, sky driving, art, philosophy, seeking an unconventional, intelligent, open-minded, tall and attractive woman, 25-35, any origin. London. ☎5509

WHY AM I SINGLE?
Nice-looking male, 32, 5'9", graduate, slim, unpretentious and considerate, with GSOH, interested in music, arts, enjoys racket sports, cycling, travelling, seeking a similar female, 25-33, to share life's special moments with. London. ☎5513

READ THIS AND RING!
Honest, down-to-earth, blue-eyed male, 33, 6', good personality, likes cinema, concerts, theatre, eating out, seeking a like-minded female, 26-36, for friendship and a long-term relationship. London area. ☎5453

BARBICAN HALL
Mahler 2, 21st Feb. Attractive lady, nose ring, DMs, gave me a gorgeous smile as I left. You were in seat T3, I was in T7. Please call. ☎5523

ORIGINAL MATERIAL
Creative graduate male, aged 31, seriously into songwriting, music, cinema, poetry and people, is seeking a witty, fascinating female, for fun, friendship and inspiration. Tyneside area. ☎5330

HONEST AND CREATIVE
Professional male, 39, into music, theatre, creative arts, seeks honest, caring female, 35-45. Essex based. ☎5316

ATTRACTIVE ARCHITECT
Interior designer, early 30s, 5'10", slim build, green eyes, likes music, creativity, loves children, seeking a fit, slim, fun, attractive and creative female, similar age and profession, with morals and values, to settle down with. London and surrounding area. ☎5449

HANDSOME AND GENUINE
City professional, 31, 6', N/S, athletic build, seeking attractive, slim female, 5'6"+, N/S, with caring soul for friendship & romance. London. ☎5455

SINGLE WHITE MALE
Genuine SE London guy, 40, 5'11", own home, no ties, solvent, into countryside, seaside and sailing, seeks slim/medium-built, genuine girlfriend. ☎5398

OFFBEAT GRADUATE
Affectionate and companionable, seeks animal-loving female companion, 50+, to share art galleries, concerts and cinema etc., also exploring London or country, conversation and other simple pleasures. ☎5151

NEW BEGINNING
Male, 50, wearing well, interest in arts, cinema, world travel, food, music, seeking a female, for happy times and a stable relationship. London. ☎5314

ATTRACTIVE SWEDISH MAN
Male, 23, brown/blue, likes concerts, nature, deep conversation, walks, seeking a female, 20-30, redhead preferred. London or Middlesex. ☎5377

LIKES A LAUGH
Young male, 41, cultured, diverse, amusing, active, seeks female, 28-33, for friendship, romance and a family. Ring me and I'll make you smile. Bath. ☎5383

IF YOU'RE LOOKING...
...this man has love to give. Humorous, professional male, 5'11", slim build, big bike, house in Oxford, likes vegetarian food, pubs, music, socialising. You want more? ☎5305

EDINBURGH BASED
Single, well-built male, 32, 5'10", blond/blue, N/S, likes cinema, restaurants, shopping, pubs, clubs, swimming, seeking female, 24-32, GSOH, for friendship and more. ☎5209

TOWN/COUNTRY HOUSE
Quiet weekends beside beautiful beaches, offered to stressed, slim, professional London girl, aged 20-40, by handsome, romantic, slightly mad guy. South Wales based ☎4976

SACRED UNITY
Active and creative, N/S, N/D world citizen, who's into spirituality, humanity, reality, wishes to share infinite space, with a tough, beautiful, independent, serene, stylish, successful and self-assured, un-tall, younger female, 30s. Europe. ☎5392

CALL ME
Professional chap, 39, 6'4", is seeking a lady, to share friendship, films and a love of the countryside. London, Bucks or Northants area. ☎5321

MANCHESTER MAN
Broad-shouldered, honest, reliable, mixed race man, seeks interesting female, 20+, with varied interests. ☎5204

CUDDLY OLDER WOMAN?
Honest and dependable, quite shy, caring country lad, 30, graduate, seeking an outwardly conventional, fuller-figured lady, 45-60, with a sense of the ridiculous, for close friendship. NW. ☎5323

SWEETNESS
Tender, loving, attractive, confident and kind male, 26, seeking a feminine, petite female, 18+, for friendship, romance and lasting love. ☎5395

EXOTIC ADVENT
Kind, sensitive, kind, honest, reliable, attractive male, 32, 5'9", dark hair/eyes, seeks special, understanding, exotic lady, 20-40, any nationality, to spend some time with. London or Middlesex area. ☎5380

DIET PEPSI MAN
Musician, writer and lecturer, early 40s, slim, with own hair/viagra, seeks female soul mate, to share cafe society, city breaks and wild times. Brighton. ☎5372

SINGLE WHITE MALE
Warm, witty, fit, solvent, educated male, 37, seeking similar, black or Indian lady, to share thoughts, laughter and the good things in life. ☎5434

HONEST AND HANDSOME
Graduate, 38, 5'11", solvent, successful in the arts, loves outdoors, fine wine, 'Friends' and good conversation (sometimes silly, sometimes serious), seeking like-minded, slim girl, under 40. London. ☎5418

REAL WORLD? GET LOST!
Make a better world with me. Cultured, dashing male graduate, 30, 6', seeking romance. Worcs based. ☎5315

SLEEPLESS IN GUERNSEY
Civil servant, 25, 5'8", brown/blue, kind, caring and romantic, GSOH, enjoys pubs, music, keeping fit, eating out, travel, seeks lady, 18-30, similar interests, GSOH for friendship, possibly leading to more. ☎5396

WOODY ALLEN/ FRIEDA KAHLOW
Multicultural, sincere, academic male, 35, seeking a witty female, possibly with a tattoo, to share the arty aspects of life or salsa. Manchester. ☎5432

BRISTOL BASED
Caring, professional male, late 40s, 6', cosmopolitan, into spirituality, sport, good communication, honesty and empathy, seeking a feminine, warm-hearted female, to share out humanity with me. ☎5184

ASIAN SOUGHT
Tall, slim, intelligent, romantic, educated male, 56, into sailing, travel, reading, cinema, music and more, seeking an attractive, articulate, tactile Asian female, for friendship, maybe more. Notts based. ☎5379

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Genuine male, 30, attractive, likes eating out, films, music, travel, seeks kind, friendly white female, 18-30, for friendship, possible relationship. London/Middlesex area. ☎5417

ASIAN MAN
Very attractive man, enjoys most things, seeking a female, under 70. London. ☎5205

EFFERVESCENT AND EXTROVERT
Single male, young 39, non-smoker, no ties, enjoys life, fit and active, keen on sport (football and cricket), cinema, eating out, having a drink and also travel. If this takes your fancy, please give me a call ☎5430

SAILING ADVENTURE
Next three to five years, in 40' yacht? Me: 6', presentable, easygoing, experienced sailer, seeking slimmish, seasick resistant, happy, N/S female mate, 50ish. South West. ☎5210

HI THERE
Plymouth male, early 40s, GSOH, with an interesting job and a comfortable lifestyle, enjoys walking, sailing, cooking, music, cinema, theatre, arts and society, seeking a like-minded, fun-loving female. ☎5325

ONION FIELDS
Divorced male, 40, 6', no ties, seeks white, professional, sincere woman, for something special. South London. ☎5208

BRYON THE PHILHELLENE
Slim male, 50, seeking an amusing female partner, to share a journey to the oracle at Delphi this spring. Newcastle. ☎5312

CALL ME
Respectable black male, 26, Oxford based, seeking a female. If you enjoy films, classical music, jazz and fun, give me a call. If you don't, please call me anyway!. ☎5201

BE MY LOVE
Young, professional male, 31, seeks companionship. Lives life to the full, loves the outdoors and world travel, seeks lady, 23-33, to share laughter and friendship. ☎5279

FARAWAY LOOK
Strikingly handsome, tall, dark, athletic, professional male graduate, into scuba diving, good literature, eating out, seeks lady. Inspire me to spin tales of Gaelic wonder. Scotland. ☎5202

STOP...READ THIS
Good-looking, genuine male, mid-40s, 5'8", based in Brighton, slim build, N/S, into food, travel, cinema, sports, leisure, seeks female, 36-46, any nationality, for companionship, possibly lots more. ☎5160

POSSIBLE FUTURE
Midlands/Warwickshire-based, German-born male, mid-50s, 6'2", blue eyes, seeks attractive, tall, slimmish, feminine lady, under 55, who enjoys life, but thinks sharing is better, who's also looking for caring, faithful partner and friend. ☎5275

FOR MEMBERS OF CARRY...
Bradshaw's Army, whether a general/foot soldier, a 38-year-old recently separated gentleman, is re-entering the dating war. Unsoiled by years of attrition and battle, I hope to capture someone's heart soon. London area. ☎5302

YOU HAVE TO ROLL THE DICE TO...
...get past go! Cardiff-based computer engineer, 42, dark, slightly overweight, attractive, seeking a warm, green-eyed redhead, probably graduate, slightly left of centre, into arts. Phone now to throw a six. ☎5263

TRY LIFE
Yorkshireman, 37, 6'1", fit, professional, seeks intelligent, articulate female, 25-38, to share interests, food, wine and outdoor pursuits. Gloucs. ☎5103

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Well-built, professional, outgoing male, 44, N/S, seeks female, 30-45, for long-term, loving relationship, who enjoys countryside, National Trust, arts and travel. ☎5282

LOTS OF FUN
Good-looking white male, 27, 5'6", slim build, brown/blue, likes hip hop, cinema, museums, football, seeks attractive female, 18-37, N/S, for friendship and romance. London. ☎5264

RED OR WHITE
Tall, dark, handsome, professional (advertising over) male, 32, seeks attractive, independent female, 25-30ish, to share a bottle or two with. London. ☎5297

AGE IS ONLY A NUMBER...
...Said the Buddha. Interesting male, aged 54, 5'9", good build, Windsor/Eastbourne based, likes water/snow skiing, travelling, dining out and weekends away, seeking a genuine lady, 45-55. ☎5206

OXFORD BLUES
Bored, postgraduate student, 28, seeks petite female, for very close relationship. ☎5161

MARRIAGE MINDED
Tall, attractive male, 36, seeks female soul mate, for life's pleasures. London. ☎5206

RADICAL MAN SEEKS WOMAN
Unconventional, intelligent, articulate man, 50, into pubs, music, politics, with GSOH, seeks similar, radical woman for exciting times. Bristol/London. ☎5207

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Good looking, gay postgraduate male, 26, 6'2", brown/blue, medium build, enjoys theatre, walking, cinema, reading, seeking similar, special man, for 1-2-1 relationship. NW England. ☎5320

NOT TOO WILD
Slim, medium-built, sincere gay male, 45, enjoys cinema, theatre, quiet nights in, swimming, travel, more, seeks similar, stable male, for friendship and lasting relationship. Lincs. ☎5203

HOPELESS ROMANTIC WANTED
Asian guy, 35, 5'8", medium/masculine build, N/S, likes cinema, dining out, seeks white guy, under 35, for friendship, relationship. Leicestershire/East Midlands area. ☎5376

GAY MALE
Male, 55, 6', large build, enjoys all the arts, good food and wine, long walks, seeks man, for a 1-2-1 relationship. Leicestershire area preferred. ☎5374

LOVELY LANCASHIRE LAD
Tall, dark, handsome, open, caring, sociable, modern, honest gay man, 34, into music, art, theatre, restaurants, herbalism, wildlife, Sherlock, saunas, sunset, smiles, shopping, clothes, animals, reading, composing. You: under 40? ☎5324

INTELLIGENT PROFESSIONAL
Gay professional male, 24, 6', brown hair/eyes, straight-acting, successful, comfortable lifestyle, seeks similar man, for sincere relationship. London. ☎5197

LOOKING FOR SOUL MATE
Attractive male/female, blonde hair and blue eyes, transsexual, wicked SOH, seeking a bisexual male, for friendship and sharing life with. Manchester. ☎5397

LOOKING FOR YOU
Bisexual/gay female, aged 25-35, sought by bisexual guy, 30, 5'11", professional, attractive, blond/blue, athletic build, for friendship and fun, possibly leading to more. Midlands based. ☎5419

CHIC CHICK
Desired by aspiring libertine, for funky fetish clubbing. Me: handsome, warm and honest man, 30s. You: stylish, confident, self-aware female, able to share emotionally, intellectual, hedonistic adventures. London. ☎5303

FEISTY, HIGH HEELED LADY...
...30-55, who walks the walk. Are you seeking a domestic companion, who doesn't just talk the talk? Then call this attractive male, 39. ☎5394

SUSSEX COAST
Tall, slim, bisexual male, 48, with decent looks, seeks similar man, for fun, friendship, outdoor pursuits and sport. ☎5317

COULD WE BE FRIENDS?
Attractive couple, 35/40, seek similar couple, for fun, friendship and outings. Yorkshire area. ☎5267

MASTERFUL
Good-looking male, mid-40s, 6', dark/blue, understanding, seeks submissive female, to share mutual awareness and pleasure. Beds/Herts/Cambs/East Anglia. ☎5256

POST-OP TRANSSEXUAL
Male-to-female, 44, into music, nights out, staying in, having fun, seeks female, for fun, friendship and possibly more. Manchester area. ☎5199

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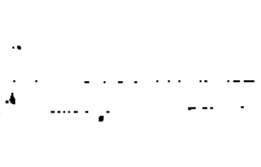

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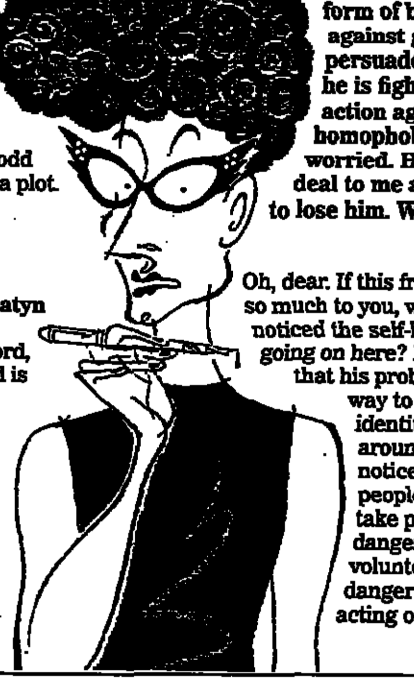
هكذا من الاعلى

MODERN MANNERS: YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD

Dear Serena



Dear Serena,
I'm gay, but several times over the last year or so, since I split with my long-term partner, I've met women with whom I have fallen devastatingly in love. I've often found myself at parties gazing soulfully into the eyes of some adorable temptress rather than dancing at my own end of the ballroom. This is worrying me, as I'm afraid that I might not actually be gay after all, which will obviously cause quite a lot of disruption in my life. How do I work out where my mind's coming from, and how on earth does one go about going back in?
Stu, Battersea, London

Don't confuse these feelings for women with an urge to admit that you're actually heterosexual. True, the occasional gay man goes back in for reasons of his own, and this questioning is something a lot of gay men go through at some point, especially after the end of a relationship (and believe me, many a heterosexual woman has toyed with the idea of lesbianism after a nasty run-in with a man). But feeling enormous affection toward women is more likely to be a sign that you're well adjusted, and are capable of strong emotional bonds with people with whom sex is not an issue. Don't panic. Women are great; enjoy the fact that you've found some special ones of your own. You will know you've reached full maturity when you also make a close friend who is male and heterosexual.

Dear Serena,
I've developed a programme for a minority channel which was designed to appeal to the gay community and cause controversy in the wider world. Instead, there's been hardly a murmur in the press, and gay men seem to be switching off in droves. Help! Where did I go wrong?
X, Manchester

Quite simple, darling: you forgot the old rule that screen sex, unless you're deliberately using it for stimulation, is actually astonishingly boring, and the sort of thing you can show on television is hardly going to match up to the Jeff Stryker videos most of your target audience have stashed in their cupboards. Remember for future reference: even real porn movies make the odd gesture toward having a plot.

Dear Serena,
Judy Garland or Joan Crawford?
Lester, Prestatyn

Good God, Joan Crawford, of course. Judy Garland is such a simp.

Dear Serena,
My best friend has recently developed an obsession with "bareback riding" – having sexual liaisons without using condoms; he has become very militant about this theory that Aids is a form of biological weapon against gay men and has persuaded himself that he is fighting a guerrilla action against homophobia. I'm very worried. He means a great deal to me and I don't want to lose him. What can I do?
Gerry, Salford

Oh, dear. If this friend really means so much to you, why haven't you noticed the self-loathing thing going on here? I'm not saying that his problems are in any way to do with his sexual identity but, if you look around you, you will notice that most of the people who regularly take part in extremely dangerous activities, or volunteer for extremely dangerous jobs, are also acting out suicidal urges in a way that they feel would take the responsibility out of their hands if anything were to happen. Please encourage your friend to get some therapy; his best chance of survival is working out why he wants to die.

Dear Serena,
What do you think? Is it OK for gay men to greet each other with kisses in public?
Magnus, Leeds

Sorry, love, but it still depends entirely on where you are. At parties, yes, in restaurants, yes, probably in most places where women habitually go without a male escort. But don't do it in, for instance, Stoke City Centre on a Saturday just after the football's turned out. It's a shame, and in an ideal world you could do it anywhere, but the sad fact of life is that many people live in certain areas, such as the country or Huddersfield, because it allows them to live with their prejudices unchallenged, and they can react with violence if their limitations are tested too vigorously.

Dear Serena,
I'm looking to expand my drag act and was hoping you could suggest some personalities who might go down well on the circuit.
Mauricia, Soho, London

I'd have said Hillary Clinton was admirably suited to life as a drag act, though Monica Lewinsky goes down better, at least according to rumour. Have you thought of doing Pauline Fowler out of *EastEnders*? There's an advantage in the savings on wardrobe costs. There is, I think, serious potential in Kate Winslet or, indeed, Leonardo DiCaprio. Oh, and ditch that Gaultier bustier: Madonna's upper arms have become so pumped up these days that the media are on red alert for an announcement.

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena, The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, where they will be treated with the customary sympathy

---

POPPY FOLLY

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

Noses, for a start, it's about noses. There are some very bizarre proboscises produced by Pisces, and this is best observed from drawings of *Liza Minnelli* from above, Cyrano de Bergerac from underneath, or Rupert Murdoch from any angle (Mate! Have you got planning permission for that thing?) And it's no better lower down. The typical Piscean would have Harold Wilson's body, Michaelangelo's back, Rob Reiner's stomach, Ivan Lendl's eyes, Cyd Charisse's brain, Douglas Hurd's voice, Alan Greenspan's *joie de vivre*, and Douglas Adams's tax bill.

There are some exceptions, of course: the yodelling Samoan Kiri Te Kanawa, Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space – as well as the first spacewoman (Elizabeth Barrett Browning, if memory serves), and the hoary old perennial Kemal Ataturk (deceased). Though for all Pisces' pretensions to understanding universal laws and the deep structure of the world, its only creation to have really affected international relations has been the miniskirt.

The fact is, this week is the creative hovel of the zodiac, the place where artistic aspirants go to be born, only to die early (of suffocation usually, trying to get more of the bottle in their mouths). Pisceans are fabulous drunks, the most famous of whom was Vyacheslav Molotov, the man who invented a bomb which was three parts the odds and ends in the back of your drinks cabinet plus a splash of Campari: you swallow once, cough in the face of your enemy and laugh as they go into convulsions.

Whole countries (actually, whole histories of countries) have been expugned by this behaviour. What countries, you ask? Nobody now knows. But we can say with certainty that this malevolent psychoactivism is the reason behind Mondrian's art, Nijinsky's conversation and Bobby Fischer's queen-side strategies. Thank you, Pisces, sign of peace, love and biological warfare.

ARIES

IT'S MARVELLOUS what you have been getting away with for so long. The way you behave should cause reprisals, but remember: you are protected by your energy more than by your charm. It is important not to get ill (your force-field will fail and let your enemies in). You sense a general improvement in the tenor of the world, but just when you think the weather is clearing, rain comes in from an unexpected direction. Personal hygiene has a significance that you have not yet fully understood.

TAURUS

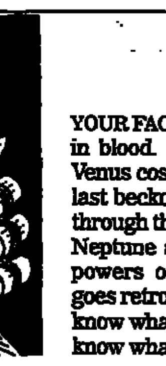
YOU NEED a little support and that is exactly what you're going to get. The gender of your assistants is somewhat obscure, but they're short, and what they are offering is inadequate – except in bed (but you rock and roll well enough for both of you). Past indulgences are finally catching up on you (don't look back). Retribution may range from surplus calories to emotional violence from those you have deceived for love or money. Be kind to your persecutors; nothing annoys them more.

GEMINI

IT'S EASY to assume you have no depths, only degrees of brilliance. But be prepared for revelations. These will change your view of a friend – Mercury will help you make sense of what you see, and also tell it to everyone else. But when the planet goes retrograde on Wednesday it takes you with it. Your obsessions will not remain unpenetrated for ever. Your beloved (if you have a beloved) will suffer a transformation (helping, therefore, to explain their mystery).

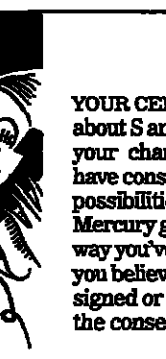
CANCER

IN THE moments before sleep, there is one who comes to you in a disturbing way. You thought you knew better (Lord knows, you're old enough), but this call from the past threatens to be more powerful than your common sense (as just about everything is). There is a sense of morbid habit about your life, and your days pile up like old papers in a widower's slum. Alcohol helps more than travel (at least when you drink you don't have to take yourself along).



LEO

YOUR FACE is flat and the grindstone's covered in blood. But things get much sweeter when Venus cosies up to you and the good life at long last beckons. But damn it, you're only half-way through the week and you've still got to deal with Neptune and a false sense of security in your powers of expression (Remember: Mercury goes retrograde on Wednesday). Men – now you know what it is like to be a girl. Girls – now you know what it is like to be Cancerian.



VIRGO

YOUR CERTAINTIES take a rollicking from A to about S and back again. Your insights undermine your character assessments: everything you have constructed is wrong. Yippee, this opens up possibilities both financial and erotic. But then Mercury goes retrograde and takes you back the way you've come, possibly to see that everything you believed was correct after all. So, if you have signed or succumbed, you will just have to bear the consequences, won't you?

LIBRA

THERE'S A toxic element in intoxication: how are you going to cope when your life-loving astrology spills over into your hangover-hating biology? The repercussions from sex will be more diminishing than from alcohol. The only solution is to stay in the foothills, so don't attempt to reach the peak. This sort of restraint is really possible only for old people. Your luck will never run out. Until Friday. Your blessed nature may make you a little selfish. "Tough tuna," you riposte. Ha-ha! A hit, a palpable hit.

SCORPIO

FOR A brief period, you are free from astrological influences, now the depths of your Scorpio self can emerge. (Run, everyone! Hide! Put your children in the priests' hole!) Is it paranoia, or are there those around you who have succumbed to a liberation theology and are planning their escape? However inexcusable their behaviour (think of what you've done for them), don't destroy them. You'll need them later. Laughter will be useful, however pointless.

SAGITTARIUS

THE WORLD is less forgiving than it has been and you may be tempted to abandon your great project to make a convenient accommodation with stupid people. But your strategy has rightly been to bend the world to yourself (so many people can't be right). You are required to rise above the mass, not sink into it. Perhaps you are not working hard enough. Be serious; you need a more numinous philosophy. Or maybe it's a haircut, the stars are ambivalent.

CAPRICORN

THE WORLD'S a sweat shop; you're getting paid rock-all and your hostel bills are huge. An affliction with the sun means a period of drudgery that can be overcome only by very hard work (that is, more drudgery). Contain your resentment at others' ease and success. There are those whose only function is beauty and their natural reward is luxury. Cheer yourself up by making one of the favoured few strip from the waist down and stand in the corner.

AQUARIUS

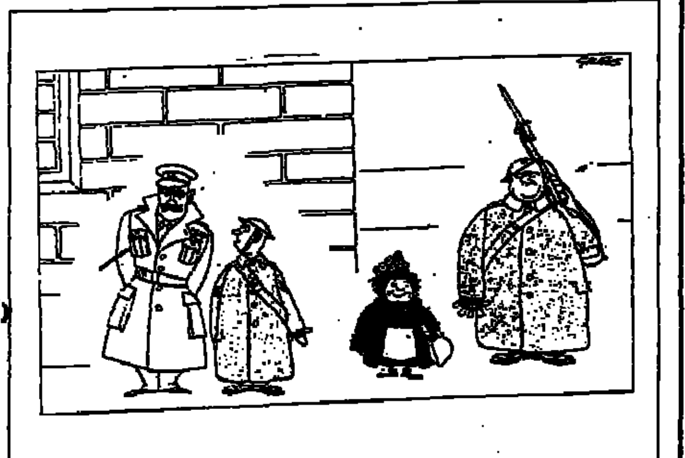
TAKE THE risk of exploding over everyone and stop annoying people – just for once and just this week. There are significant gains you can make if those around you aren't upset and disturbed by your emotional interventionism. Observe the shape people make when you aren't operating on them; that's how they like to be. They have all the things you want (except three), and they are prepared to give them, if they don't think you're about to snatch them.

PISCES

THIS IS how you like to be, lit up from within by a matrix of psychic illuminations. They're flashing at you with marvellous creativity (is it Morse, or a defective connection?). There are images, insights, axioms being beamed at you, and you assume you'll be able to work out what they all mean. But there's not much time. When Mercury goes retrograde, everything will start to mean the opposite. Those who had a crush on you will be crushed. Oh, well.

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON CARL GILES



'We say to her: 'Friend or Foe?' and all she keeps saying is: 'Foe!''

IF THE awkward customer at the heart of this 1940 Carl Giles cartoon looks familiar it is because we know her in more mature form. For this is a youthful manifestation of Grandma, the grim bombazine matriarch who steamed through the "family" cartoons Giles later drew for the *Express*, with the presence of an ironclad battleship. Giles invented his family at the end of the war, when his previous cast of featured grotesques – Hitler, Mussolini and Goebbels – walked out on him. In Grandma he created a character more menacing, less easily placated and better loved than them. Rarely condescending to speak, she always communicated her opinion, sometimes via the blunt end of an umbrella handle, sometimes (as in a hanging debate), through the mouths of children ("Grandma says hang everybody"). She was ink-intensive and inexpungable. Even Giles couldn't rub her out; when he once said he wanted to there was a public outcry.

PUZZLEMASTER

BY CHRIS MASLANKA

BERYL BAINBRIDGE'S mini-outburst this week raised some eyebrows but few questions. Children, says the novelist, should have elocution lessons, and regional accents be eradicated.

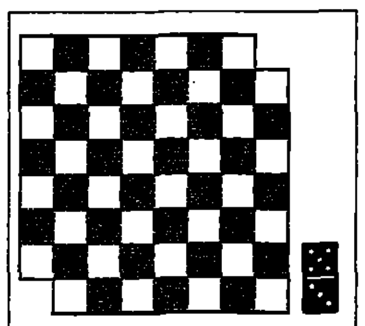
It is un-PC to say that one finds one accent uglier than another: such feelings are felt to be invalid. People are put off by strong accents other than their own. We don't notice our own accents, of course. In the deep sea the fish do not see the water. But that's what regional accents are "for": to separate in-groups from out-groups; to attract and repel.

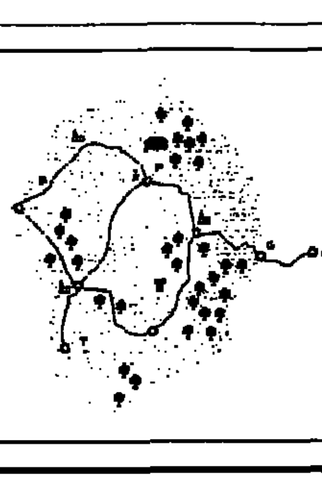
But just because I am in favour of a regional accent doesn't mean I want it in all contexts. Though an avid fan of *Taggart*, I do not want the national news to be in Glaswegian; any more than others would want it in my father's (lovely) Polish accent.

Unfortunately there is no alternative to the disparate media babble of mixed and modified accents: the natural candidate for such a role, received English, is disqualified for reasons of class. There is already uniformity in the written language. We write house whether we read it as hice or ha-ouse.

A consistent regional patois with its own grammar is one thing; sloppiness another. But language is one of the most democratic and rudderless of institutions. Grumble all you wish at Sco'land, Ga'wick or "Northern Island", the tide cannot be turned back. Pronounce Sco'land with a "t" and you are dated just as surely as if you'd been named Elspeth or Archibald.

Language change cannot be stopped, but that doesn't mean it shouldn't be moderated. Listen to the sloppy inarticulacies of children's programming, or the news. This is not regionality but language blindness. No wonder education is such a struggle.





Answer to last week's Puzzles
1. FOLKLORE
2. NORMALITY
3. Each domino must cover a black square and a white square. But there are more white squares than black. So it is impossible. First out of the electronic hat was David Hodgkiss in Germany.

POINTS TO PONDER
Uncle Tadek goes from Tomsk to Omsk visiting each other town exactly once. Show that if the high road (BG) is not passable, it is not possible. Even if he visits towns more than once he must go through an even number of them. Unless he goes along BP
Answers next week
Comments to:
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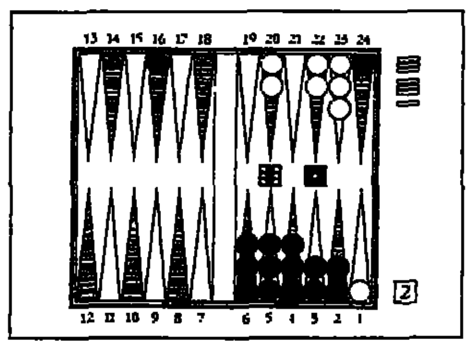
BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



STRANGE POSITIONS sometimes demand strange plays. When I had this position a few weeks ago, I was annoyed not to be able to hit white and quickly played 16/10, 4/3. White ran out with 65 and the game was soon over.

My play was dreadful and I deserved to lose. What should my plan have been? Firstly I should not have given up coverage of the outer boards. I should have played 24/18, 16/15. If white rolls a number with a 6 in it, I will have at least a single shot at him. If he doesn't, then I can attack him on my 1-point next roll.

But could I really not hit white? What about the odd looking play 24/18, 2/1*? Now white stays on the bar on 16 of his rolls and I have lots of builders in place to rebuild my board. Four of white's rolls (14, 41, 24, 42) leave three blots and four more rolls (13, 31, 23, 32) are nearly as bad. Only six rolls (16, 61, 26, 62, 25, 52) are really any good for him. If he does manage to escape, my coverage of the outer boards is still good.

It's difficult to find plays like this and weigh them against the merits of the more prosaic 24/18, 16/15. In this particular case, the equity difference is small but 24/18, 2/1* is slightly the better play. The really important thing is make sure that you consider all the candidate plays.

BBC1

6.35 Teletubbies (1638823). **7.15** Match of the Day (2854804). **8.30** Breakfast with Frost (58378). **9.30** Heaven and Earth Show (76281). **10.30** Animals in Uniform (23262). **11.00** Goodnight Sweetheart (6939). **11.30** CountryFile (7668). **12.00** On the Record (51533). **1.00** Cartoons (68155842). **1.45** EastEnders (7228397). **2.40** The Great British Song Contest (1110718).

3.10 FILM **King Solomon's Mines** (Compton Bennett and Andrew Marton 1950 UK). With Deborah Kerr and Stewart Granger (14804939).

4.50 Masterchef 1999 (2326945). **5.20** News; Weather (T) (3650736). **5.40** Local News; Weather (450561). **5.45** Songs of Praise (737668).

6.20 All along the Watchtower. Sitcom set in an almost-forgotten RAF early-warning station in Scotland (S) (T) (397200).

6.50 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully, in Plymouth, unearths a valuable painting of a young girl by Frederick, Lord Leighton and rare Frankenthal porcelain (579991).

7.35 Wildlife Special. David Attenborough meets some wolves (R) (791552).

8.20 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (S) (T) (777262).

8.30 Love Town. More Gretna Green weddings, including a badly hung-over groom (S) (T) (1649).

9.00 Comic Relief's Great Big Excellent African Adventure! With Geri Halliwell, Dervla Kirwan, Kris Akabusi, Nick Hancock and Jonathan Ross (S) (T) (622246).

9.50 News; Weather (T) (330674).

10.00 The Lakes. Lucy takes the witness stand to confront her rapists and reveals an explosive secret (S) (T) (103755).

10.40 Comic Relief Jukebox. With Zoë Ball (S) (T) (577465).

11.00 Mrs Merton and Malcolm (R) (S) (T) (1620).

11.30 Heart of the Matter. Genetically-modified foods (S) (T) (377823).

12.10 FILM **For the Love of Aaron** (John Kent Harrison 1994 US). (S) (9017311). To 1.40am.

BBC2

8.30 Little Mouse on the Prairie (2915991). **8.50** Alvin and the Chipmunks (2926007). **9.15** Wayne Manifesto (8421264). **9.40** The Wild House (2745277). **10.05** No Sweat (5537587). **10.30** Grange Hill (9643262). **10.55** Sub Zero (1701281). **11.20** Grange Hill (3214804). **11.50** O Zone (3297741). **12.05** The Simpsons (3744823). **12.30** Robot Wars (70668). **1.00** Around Westminster (51194). **1.30** Sunday Grandstand (90377194). **1.35** Ski Sunday (6079216). **2.20** Ice Hockey (5005842). **3.10** Rugby Union (5211736). **3.25** Ice Hockey (1269303). **4.05** Athletics (6989552). **4.20** Ice Hockey (6459281). **5.00** Athletics (9693552). **5.45** Top Gear Take 2 (158910).

6.00 Star Trek: Voyager. Janeway tries to keep Voyager from total destruction (S) (T) (181465).

6.45 Star Trek: Voyager. Captain Janeway and her crew encounter a species that can sense thoughts (S) (T) (585552).

7.30 The Money Programme. Previews this Tuesday's budget (S) (T) (113).

8.00 Loyalists. Peter Taylor continues his inside look at the Protestant paramilitaries as the story of the Troubles reaches the early 1990s (S) (583755).

8.50 Vintner's Tales with Jancis Robinson (R) (S) (T) (946945).

9.00 Steptoe and Son (R) (6045).

9.30 Red Dwarf VIII. The Cat falls in love, and performs an elaborate tap dance with Blue Midget (S) (50804).

10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Guest include Meat Loaf, Billie and comedian Roland Rivron (S) (46113).

10.30 10 x 10: Talking Trees (362216).

10.40 CHOICE **A Rap at the Door.** Drama concerning Northern Ireland's "disappeared". See *Drama of the Day*, below (S) (T) (946543).

11.40 CHOICE **Mina Tannenbaum** (Martine Dugowson 1993 Fr). Drama about the friendship between two very different women. See *Film of the Day*, below (97833216). To 2am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (77945). **8.00** Diggit (7569216). **9.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches (8090378). **9.35** Power Rangers in Space (3999115). **10.05** Sunday Morning (7109194). **11.05** F1: Australian Grand Prix (77166378). **1.15** ITN News; Weekend Weather (41340991). **1.25** London Today (31739262). **1.30** Jonathan Dimbleby (6985823). **2.20** Big Screen (35057465). **2.50** Anatomy of Disaster (1464552).

3.45 The Big Match: FA Cup Sixth Round – Newcastle vs Everton. Bob Wilson presents live coverage of the FA Cup quarter-final at St James' Park (kick-off at 4pm) followed by the semi-final draw (T) (62792378).

6.15 ITN News; Weather (T) (182465).

6.25 London Tonight (T) (469026).

6.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of Music. The lanky extrovert hosts another round of the entertainment show in which competitors get the chance to perform and show off their musical knowledge (S) (T) (58939).

7.30 Coronation Street. It's Sharon's wedding in this hour-long special. But will Rita tell the truth about the philandering Ian? (S) (T) (71262).

8.30 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant and more big-money questions (S) (T) (2945).

9.00 A Touch of Frost. A new four-part series for David Jason's irascible Yorkshire copper begins with a story written by Malcolm Bradbury. In "Appendix Man", an unsolved crime returns to haunt Frost when a man is found hanged in his apartment (S) (T) (8858).

11.00 News; Weather (533397). **11.15** The Jesus File with Tony Robinson (628303). **11.45** F1: Australian Grand Prix Highlights (S) (T) (669991).

12.55 FILM **Eye of the Cat** (David Lowell Rich 1969 US). Thriller starring Gayle Hunnicutt (T) (143175).

2.45 SeaQuest 2032 (8550798). **3.35** World Football (58651840). To 4.05am.

Channel 4

6.35 Dog City (5214649). **7.00** The Magic Roundabout (7699620). **7.05** Animal Alphabet (2579674). **7.15** Salty's Lighthouse (86571). **7.45** Bug Alert! (85842). **8.15** Saved by the Bell – the New Class (3735007). **8.40** City Guys (3020939). **9.10** Catdog (1697736). **9.45** Planet Pop (8949378). **10.00** The Waltons (55910). **11.00** Hollyoaks (6420649). **12.10** Up the Creek (2772668). **1.10** Dishes (7046842). **1.45** Football Italia (2541921б). **4.00** 20th-Century Hall of Fame (6162755).

4.05 FILM **Broken Lance** (Edward Dmytryck 1954 US). A rancher patriarch, Spencer Tracy, has his empire threatened by his rebellious son, Robert Wagner (43582129).

6.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson and the team travel to the Malvern Hills to unearth an Iron Age village. Along the way, they learn how to plough with oxen (T) (73755).

7.00 Escape to River Cottage. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall calls in a pest controller for his mice (9804).

7.30 Access All Areas. Medical discrimination experienced by Down's syndrome sufferers (T) (281).

8.00 CHOICE **And Finally.** A look back at three decades of *News at Ten*. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (T) (3113).

9.00 Shanghai Vice. Phil Agland's stunning documentary series which shows the Shanghai police as they try to clean up the city. A severed head is found in a canal, while an earthquake hits nearby Lijiang (S) (T) (5179).

10.00 FILM **Sirens** (John Duigan 1994 Aust/US). Hugh Grant and wife, Tara Fitzgerald, are sent to Australia to persuade a notorious artist not to exhibit his erotic religious paintings, and discover sexual liberation along the way (T) (702571).

11.45 Boyz Unlimited (902668). **12.20** 4 Later: Babylon 5 (R) (6617779). **1.15** 4 Later: Dark Skies (R) (T) (4027750). **2.10** Dweebs (R) (S) (9406446).

2.35 FILM **Day for Night** (François Truffaut 1973 US). Truffaut's Oscar-winning paean to the art of movie-making (436359). To 4.35am.

Channel 5

6.00 Wildlife SOS (85816465). **6.25** Plonsters (33323113). **6.30** Havakazoo (5246533). **7.00** Dappledown Farm (8294587). **7.30** Milkshake! (2646113). **7.35** Wimzie's House (4625842). **8.00** My Sunday (2848465). **8.30** Do You Believe In? (2847736). **9.00** Stickin' Around (2934216). **9.30** Milkbar (1398858). **10.00** Mirror, Mirror (5260113). **10.30** The Valley Between (2850200). **11.00** USA High (3611945). **11.30** Singled Out (3612674). **12.00** The Mag (59898200). **1.10** 5 News (93824397). **1.20** Frostrup on Sunday (23950378). **1.50** Movie Chart Show (19358755). **2.20** Exclusive (9724378). **2.55** Family Affairs (72748587). **5.10** Serious Money (25296200).

5.40 FILM **The Three Lives of Thomasina** (Don Chaffey 1963 US). Four years before he directed *The Prisoner*, Don Chaffey and Patrick McGoohan teamed up in this somewhat different Disney fantasy about a girl (Karen Dotrice) and her cat. Above-par Disney fare, with Susan Hampshire and Finlay Currie (T) (95648113).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (2421991).

8.00 Wild Encounters. Meet the orang-utans of the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra. This film visits a rehabilitation centre in Bohorok where illegally captured apes are prepared for the wild again (R) (T) (8532281).

9.00 FILM **Moment of Truth: Stalking Back** (Corey Allen 1993 US). Drama based on the true story of a 14-year-old who finds herself the object of an older man's infatuation. When she fails to respond to his advances, he begins stalking her and eventually issues death threats. Shanna Reed plays the girl's mother who begins the fight back (S) (T) (81379129).

10.50 Wing and a Prayer. Legal-eagle drama series. Carl and Don represent Patience Divine, who is convinced that her son's death in custody was suspicious (S) (T) (7150197).

11.50 The Comedy Network (8719397). **12.20** Sports Talk with Steve Scott (9095972). **12.50** Ice Hockey – NHL (S) (65291514). **4.40** Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (92284717). **5.05** Move On Up (R) (S) (32006069). **5.30** Serious Money (S) (8806021). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 11.00 Let Me Entertain You (1620). **11.30** Mrs Merton and Malcolm (36755). **12.00** Heart of the Matter (7609446). **12.40** Film: For the Love of Aaron (9007595). **2.10** The Sky at Night (1300155). **2.30** Join BBC News 24 (4852705).

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 1.00 EastEnders (7223842). **2.25** The Great British Song Contest (35061668). **2.55** Sportscene - Match of the Day Live ([illegible]). **5.15** Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (7719736). **7.35** Fresh Prince of Bel Air (382823). **8.00** MasterChef 1999 (5842). **11.00** Jasper Carrott - Back to the Front (1620).

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 1.40 The Sky at Night (7339514). **2.05** Join BBC News 24 (95850514).

Anglia
As LWT except: 1.25 Anglia News (31739262). **2.20** Bugs Bunny Special (35066113). **2.45** Anatomy of Disaster (885281). **6.25** Anglia News (469026). **2.45** Highlander (8550798). **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (43181953). **4.35** Coronation Street (9366885).

Central
As LWT except: 1.25 Central News and Weather (31739262). **2.20** Film: Carry On Spying* (2003823). **6.25** Central News and Weather (469026). **4.05** Jobfinder (5495601)

HTV Wales
As LWT except: 1.25 HTV News (31739262). **2.20** Murder, She Wrote (5083620). **3.15** Welsh Agenda (733674). **6.25** HTV News (469026). **2.45** Highlander (8550796). **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (43181953). **4.35** Coronation Street (9366885).

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 3.15 Getaways (733674).

Meridian
As LWT except: 1.25 Meridian News and Weather (31739262). **2.20** Murder, She Wrote (5083620). **3.15** Big Day Out (733674). **6.25** Meridian News (469026). **2.45** Highlander (8550798). **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (43181953). **4.35** Happy Ever After (46717392). **5.00** Freescreen (86682).

Westcountry
As LWT except: 1.25 Westcountry News (31739262). **2.20** World of Wonder (35057465). **2.50** Murder, She Wrote (1464552). **6.25** Westcountry News (469026). **2.45** Highlander (8550798). **4.30** ITV Nightscreen (43181953). **4.35** Coronation Street (9366885).

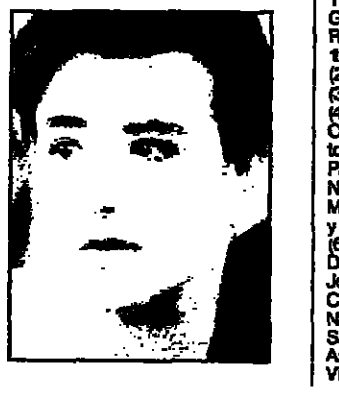
Yorkshire
As LWT except: 1.25 Calendar News and Weather (31739262) **2.20** Hollywood's Greatest Stunts (35066113). **2.45** Coronation Street (885281). **6.25** Calendar News and Sport (469026). **11.45** F1: Australian Grand Prix Highlights (785842). **12.45** Coach (79359). **1.15** Cybernet (69972). **1.45** Film: Saajan Chale Sasural. Tangled romantic tale in which a poor but ambitious young musician travels to the city to enter a prestigious music competition. (84102514). **4.15** Jobfinder (1052021).

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 1.25 North East News and Weather (31739262). **6.25** North East News and Sport (469026).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 11.00 T4: Hollyoaks (73152858). **12.05** Gogs (26243736). **12.10** Rownd a Rownd: Omnibws (22988213). **12.40** Ffeil (72440571). **12.55** Gol (25216674). **1.40** Talkabout Welsh (37672262). **2.00** Ffermio (48580552). **2.35** Brookside Omnibus (29782303). **4.00** Escape to River Cottage (67360939). **4.30** Pam Ffi Duw? (67359823). **5.00** Newyddion (92883194). **5.05** Maniffesto (13230804). **5.35** Pobol y Cwm (47143465). **7.30** Bobwm 4 (67350552). **8.00** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (90330533). **8.30** Joni Jones (31968692). **9.05** Tair Chwaer (80681858). **10.05** Newyddion (12739839). **10.20** Film: Sirens (11463281). **12.05** Access All Areas (30093156). **1.05** Shanghai Vice (33350595). **2.05** Close.

AND FINALLY (8pm C4, *right*) Quite why it's Channel 4 that is celebrating the past 30 years of *News at Ten* (which made its final appearance on Friday), and not ITV, is anybody's guess. Perhaps the demise of the bulletin has been too controversial for ITV to want to dwell on it. Anyway, Trevor McDonald, Sandy Gall, Anna Ford and Jon Snow are among those sharing their memories.

A RAP AT THE DOOR (10.40pm BBC2, *right*) This gutsy drama from BBC Northern Ireland confronts one of the darkest aspects of the Troubles – the subject of the "disappeared". These are people who have answered knocks on their doors, only to vanish – abducted and disposed of by the IRA. Three grown-up children of such a woman reveal their differing reactions in monologues to the camera.



MINA TANNENBAUM (11.40pm BBC2, *right*) François Truffaut's much-fêted *Day for Night* can be found in the early hours on Channel 4, but a much less well-known (and unfairly so) French movie is Martine Dugowson's perceptive 1993 study of two Jewish Parisian girls and their friendship. Childhood pals, they grow up to become a journalist and an artist, finally falling out over an egomaniacal art dealer.

Radio 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening. **10.00** Mark Goodier's Radio 1 Request Show. **1.00** Scott Mills. **3.00** Top of the Pops. **4.00** The Official UK Top 40. **7.00** Radio 1's Dance Anthems with Dave Pearce. **10.00** Trevor Nelson. **12.00** Clive Warren. **4.00 - 6.30** Scott Mills.

Radio 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
7.00 Don Maclean. **9.05** Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs. **11.00** Parkinson's Sunday Supplement. **1.00** Desmond Carrington. **3.00** By Popular Demand.. Burt Bacharach: the Story of My Life. **4.00** As Time Goes By. **4.30** Sing Something Simple. **5.00** Pam Ayres. **7.00** Hugh Scully. **8.30** Sunday Half Hour. **9.00** Alan Keith. **10.00** Malcolm Laycock. **11.00** The David Jacobs Collection. **12.00** Lynn Parsons. **3.00 - 4.00** Alex Lester.

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning.
11.00 Artist of the Week Encore.
12.15 Music Matters.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.45 Richard Tauber.
3.00 Spirit of the Age.
4.00 100 Great Singers.
4.15 Centurions.
4.30 The Year.
5.45 Sunday Feature: Setting the Score. The latest in the series of monthly documentaries surveying the range and diversity of 20th-century music.
6.30 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley's guest this week is Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company.
7.30 Choir Works. Brian Kay introduces a performance of one of the greatest masterpieces of the choral repertoire, Bach's 'St Matthew Passion'. James Oxley (tenor), Detlef Roth (baritone), Deborah York (soprano), Andreas Scholl (countertenor), Lothar Odinus (tenor), Michael Volle (bass), Ghent Collegium Vocale/Philippe Herreweghe.
10.30 Sunday Play: In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields. By Bernard-Marie Koltes, translated by Jeffrey Wainwright. Two men, the Dealer and the Client, meet at night in an empty industrial space to do business. It is a duel cast as a deal, conducted in an intense, highly wrought dialogue with a sense of incipient violence looming throughout: mesmeric, rhythmical and extraordinary. With Russell Dixon and Gerard McSorley. Director Melanie Harris.
11.45 World Music.
12.15 Leon McCawley.
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 News Briefing.
6.05 Something Understood.
6.35 The Living World.
6.57 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Sunday Papers.
7.10 Sunday.
7.55 Radio 4 Appeal.
8.00 News.
8.05 Sunday Papers.
8.07 Sunday Worship.
8.45 Letter from America.
9.00 News; Broadcasting House.
10.00 The Archers.
11.15 Desert Island Discs.
12.00 News; Bridging the Gap.
12.30 Just a Minute.
12.58 Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend.
1.30 Counterpoint.
2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time.
2.30 A Stitch in Time.
3.00 News; Classic Serial: The Tin Drum.
4.00 News; Bookclub.
4.30 Fine Lines.
5.00 News; File on 4.
5.40 Letters from Afar.
5.54 Shipping Forecast.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Pick of the Week.
7.00 News; The Archers. Helen gets up Tommy's nose.
7.15 Do the Right Thing. Human behaviour dissected with wit and wisdom by Jane Thynne and guests.
8.00 News; Fat Chance. A bittersweet comedy in five parts by Jenny McDade. 4: 'Secrets and Lies'. Graham has an audition as a 'Blue Peter' presenter, while the rest of the slimming club learn a bit more about Soo. With Gareth Corke and Janine Duvitski.
8.30 Nice Work. Alison Mitchell presents the series that helps you find new work opportunities and explores the issues that change and shape your working life.
9.00 News; On Giant's Shoulders. 'Darwin - the Comfortable Revolutionary'. Melvyn Bragg talks to scientists Stephen Jay Gould, Daniel Dennett, John Maynard Smith and Richard Dawkins about their hero Charles Darwin. (R)
9.30 Analysis. 'New Labour plc'. The Government has been trying to copy private sector models of management, auditing and consumer relations. But will this work, and could it be undemocratic? Ian Hargreaves asks how much our politicians and civil servants can realistically learn from big business.
10.00 News; The Westminster Hour. Andrew Rawnsley presents the political headlines of the next week, live from Westminster. Including 10.45 Now that History Hasn't Ended. The last in a series of talks by political writer and philosopher John Gray about the end of the 20th century and the world we live in now. 4: 'The Broken Spider's Web'.
11.00 News; The Learning Curve. Can one really learn about spirituality? Libby Purves seeks enlightenment in a special edition of the education magazine.
11.30 Something Understood.
12.00 News.
12.15 Diaries of Today.
12.30 The Late Story: The Unpassremarkable Man.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW
(198kHz)
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. **8.00 - 10.00** Open University.

Radio 5 Live
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Brief Lives.
6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Neil.
9.00 SportsWeek.
10.00 Hayes on Sunday.
12.00 This Football Business.
12.30 The Media Show.
1.00 Sunday Sport. Football: commentary on today's FA Cup matches - Manchester United v Chelsea, and Newcastle v Everton. Plus coverage of today's Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final between Rangers and Falkirk.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Rugby's Super League. Gateshead Thunder's first match against Leeds Rhinos.
8.30 Brief Lives.
9.00 Dallyn Worldwide.
9.30 Out This Week.
10.00 Late Night Currie.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Lucas. **9.00** Classic Romance. **12.00** Across the Threshold with David Mellor. **2.00** Alan Mann. **4.00** Margaret Howard. **6.00** Countdown Top Ten. **7.00** Smooth Classics. **9.00** Sunday Night at the Opera. **11.00** Michael Mappin. **1.00** Evening Concert. **3.00 - 6.00** Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.00 Richard Allen. **10.00** Danny Baker. **1.00** Mark Forrest. **4.00** Janey Lee Grace. **6.45** London Calling with Janey Lee Grace/AM Pete and Geoff. **7.30** Pete and Geoff. **10.00** James Merritt. **1.00** Steve Power. **4.30 - 6.30** Richard Allen.

World Service
(198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. **1.30** Meridian. **2.00** The World Today. **2.30** Pick of the World. **3.00** The World Today. **3.20** Sports Roundup. **3.30** Global Business. **4.00 - 7.00** The World Today.

Talk Radio
6.00 My Favourite Year. **7.00** Sunday People with Paul Ross and Helen Gibson. **10.00** Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens. **12.00** Sunday Sport. **6.00** My Favourite Year. **7.00** Best of the Week. **8.00** James Whale. **1.00 - 6.00** Mike Dickin.

Sky Premier
6.05 Femmes Fatales (4778910). **7.00** Evita (1996) (68135216). **9.15** American Tail: Fievel Goes West (1991) (827552). **10.45** Matilda (1996) (58121113). **12.30** Hollywood Buzz (14026). **1.00** Evita (1996) (19601823). **3.15** American Tail: Fievel Goes West (1991) (47988397). **5.00** Matilda (1996) (77007). **7.00** It Takes Two (1995) (92465). **9.00** Film Night (23200). **9.30** Judas Kiss (1998) (565216). **11.15** Of Love and Shadows (1994) (202261). **1.00** Rough Magic (1995) (900798). **2.45** Moonshine Highway (1995) (313069). **4.20 - 6.00** Buzz (391408).

Sky MovieMax
6.00 Buck and the Magic Bracelet (1997) (19945). **8.00** Take Your Best Shot (1982) (59262). **10.00** Billy Madison (1995) (92804). **12.00** Buck and the Magic Bracelet (1997) (72113). **2.00** Take Your Best Shot (1982) (519571). **3.50** Magic Sticks (1987) (1191910). **5.20** Loss of Faith (1997) (74678620). **7.00** Billy Madison (1995) (42755). **8.30** Happy Gilmore (1996) (17794). **10.00** Bulletproof (1996) (71587). **11.30** Preaching to the Perverted (1997) (362397). **1.10** Dead Bang (1988) (991040). **2.55** Home Invasion (1997) (8628330). **4.25 - 7.00** Invasion of the Astro Monster (1965) (27901514).

Sky Cinema
11.00 The Trail of the Lonesome Pine (1936) (15216216). **12.45** The Black Arrow* (1948) (4408736). **2.15** The Greatest Show on Earth (1952) (37944552). **4.45** A Guide for the Married Man (1967) (54224823). **6.20** Flying Tigers* (1942) (35533649). **8.00** Sons and Lovers* (1960) (2636649). **10.00** A Passage to India (1984) (73686113). **12.45** Three Hours to Kill (1954) (86586224). **2.10** Days of Wine and Roses* (1963) (2565088). **4.10** Sorrowful Jones* (1949) (32087972). **5.35** Close.

FilmFour
6.00 A Simple Twist of Fate (1994) (27916823). **7.45** Whacked! (6933194). **8.00** Trust (1990) (4251823). **10.00** Amateur (1994) (9102674). **11.50** Get Shorty (1995) (6508295). **1.35** Miller's Crossing (1990) (8184514). **3.30 - 6.00** Forbidden Planet (1956) (4745779).

Discovery Channel
4.00 Wings (3294587). **5.00** Flightline (1272081). **5.30** Coltrane's Planes and Automobiles (1297007). **6.00** Shipwreck! (1915945). **7.00** The Supernatural (6780705). **7.30** Creatures Fantastic (1207484). **8.00** Searching for Lost Worlds (8900939). **9.00** Ancient Inventions (8086303). **10.00** Ancient Inventions (8983282). **11.00** Ancient Inventions (8870113). **12.00** Discover Magazine (9594243). **1.00** Justice Files (3856214). **2.00** Close.

Sky One
6.00 Hour of Power (58736). **7.00** What a Mess (89991). **7.30** Street Sharks (48246). **8.00** Orson and Olivia (86945). **8.30** Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (65216). **9.00** Simpsons (83668). **9.30** Garfield and Friends (10200). **10.00** Dream Team (97910). **11.00** World Wrestling Federation Superstars (80674). **12.00** Kung Fu - the Legend Continues (29133). **1.00** The New Adventures of Superman (19571). **2.00** Beverly Hills, 90210 (68910). **3.00** VIP (22571). **4.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (18378). **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (4755). **6.00** The Simpsons (1587). **6.30** The Simpsons (9939). **7.00** King of the Hill (5484). **7.30** 3rd Rock from the Sun (8823). **8.00** Earth: Final Conflict (52200). **9.00** The X Files (49736). **10.00** Miami Uncovered (42823). **11.00** South Park (19007). **11.30** Forever Knight (74842). **12.30** Tales from the Crypt (14330). **1.00** Sightings (30576). **2.00 - 7.00** Long Play (5284663).

Sky Sports 1
6.00 V-Max (15945). **6.30** World Wide Rugby - Super 12s Tournament (57216). **8.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (55484). **8.30** Extreme Sailing (54755). **9.00** Saturday Fight Night (93620). **11.00** Goals on Sunday (22674). **12.00** European Tour Golf (5272465). **4.00** Ford Golf USA (8991). **6.00** The Snow Show (3587). **6.30** Super League Gateshead v Leeds (196007). **9.00** Spanish Football (46129). **10.30** The Snow Show (35620). **11.00** Super League Gateshead v Leeds (87133). **1.00** Spanish Football (10446). **2.30** Close.

Sky Sports 2
6.00 Watersports World (7564754). **7.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (5260543). **7.30** Gillette World Sport Special (2210228). **8.00** Soccer Extra (3005838). **11.00** Sports Unlimited (1961736). **12.00** FA Cup Football Special (1377571). **1.00** FA Cup Football Special Manchester United v Chelsea (6030842). **4.30** Premier Snooker League (2898858). **6.30** FA Cup Football Special Manchester United v Chelsea (6114213). **8.00** Ford Golf USA (1616755). **11.00** European Tour Golf (2762804). **1.30** The Snow Show (9237779). **2.00** Close.

Sky Sports 3
11.30 Futures in Sport (92589910). **12.00** Basketball (94295303). **2.00** International Cricket West Indies v Australia (33079804). **4.00** The Snow Show (14250007). **4.30** International Cricket West Indies v Australia (77909823). **9.00** Moto-plus (92671945). **9.30** Max Power (81525620). **10.30** FA Cup Special Manchester United v Chelsea (34824303). **12.00** Close.

Eurosport
6.30 Athletics (597007). **9.20** Alpine Skiing (18620). **10.30** Nordic Combined Skiing (92587). **11.00** Ski Jumping (71620). **1.00** Cross-Country Skiing (73378). **2.00** Ice Skating (84823). **4.00** Athletics (83858). **5.30** Ski Jumping (64264). **7.00** Tennis (84755). **8.30** Ice Skating (59194). **10.00** Sportscentre (697026). **10.15** Athletics (571216). **11.15** Ski Jumping (995665). **12.30** Close.

UK Gold
7.00 Angels (8863823). **7.30** Middlemarch (2885484). **8.30** Blake's Seven (3288858). **9.25** Dr Who Omnibus - Planet of Evil (97989939). **11.10** Dallas Omnibus (18578397). **1.00** Film: Shenandoah (1965) (2554991). **3.00** The Bill Omnibus (50628945). **5.25** Keeping Up Appearances (9146303). **6.00** Ballykissangel (96348543). **7.05** Good Life (7080281). **7.45** To the Manor Born (4458804). **8.25** Only Fools and Horses (2889552). **9.05** Black Adder the Third (1382465). **9.45** Blackadder's Christmas Carol (8690620). **10.40** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (53186668). **11.45** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (6496674). **12.25** Ruby Wax Meets... Pamela Anderson (7403137). **1.00** Pride and Prejudice (1056232). **2.00** Minder (8337068). **3.00 - 7.00** Shopping with Screenshop (8394224).

Living
6.00 Tiny and Crew (79742200). **6.20** 10 plus 2 (48183533). **6.40** Philbert the Frog (98752113). **6.45** Greedysaurus (98751484). **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts (98749649). **7.00** Practical Parenting (3691216). **7.05** Professor Bubble (1693007). **7.30** Barney (5063026). **7.55** Parenting (9116465). **8.00** Caillou (8589397). **8.05** Bug Alert (6685804). **8.25** Babaloos (151528l). **8.30** Tiny Tales (3390262). **8.35** Tiny and Crew (4220200). **8.50** Practical Parenting (8837128). **9.00** Mrs Greenthumbs (8441668). **9.30** Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7311552). **10.00** Brookside Omnibus (7404216). **12.00** Jerry Springer Weekend - from Midday to Midnight (9663638). **4.00** The Jerry Springer UK Special - behind the Scenes (9771668). **4.40** The Jerry Springer Show - UK Special (5562910). **5.30** Jerry Springer Weekend (8455945). **12.00** Close.

TNT
9.00 Hearts of the West (1975) (33091026). **11.00** 36 Hours* (1964) (68066281). **1.15** The Last Run (1971) (45574408). **3.00** Hearts of the West (1975) (17330446). **5.00** Close.

Paramount Comedy Channel
7.00 Jenny (5026). **7.30** Grace Under Fire (8465). **8.00** Ellen (7674). **8.30** Spin City (3281). **9.00** Cheers (63842). **9.30** Cheers (61533). **10.00** Taxi (57842). **10.30** Taxi (33262). **11.00** Seinfeld (48587). **11.30** Larry Sanders (10397). **12.00** Duckman (75853). **12.30** We Know Where You Live (38934). **1.00** Comedy Store (34330). **1.30** Club Class (48021). **2.00** Dr Katz (59069). **2.30** Tibs and Fibs (37576). **3.00** Nightstand (21866). **3.30** Abbott & Costello (51156). **4.00** Close.

Granada Plus
6.00 Jason King (6886736). **7.00** Bootsie and Snudge (7609216). **7.30** That's My Boy (7403610). **8.00** Watching (4466281). **8.30** Dharma and Greg (4465552). **9.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (7775945). **10.00** Behind the Velvet Ropes (7596281). **10.30** Homes with Style (4558216). **11.00** Return of Sherlock Holmes (2859719). **12.00** Jeeves and Wooster (1946129). **1.00** Love and Marriage (8059754). **1.30** Please, Sir! (1853465). **2.00** Poirot (7597910). **3.00** Bonanza (2073755). **4.00** The High Chaparral (2052262). **5.00** Coronation Street (8868719). **7.30** Dharma and Greg (2107755). **8.00** Poirot (9192668). **9.00** Jeeves and Wooster (9172804). **10.00** Clive James (9175991). **11.00** Granada Men & Motors (1688656). **2.00** Close.

[illegible]

SATURDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
7.00 Mark Goodier. **10.00** Clive Warren. **1.00** Scott Mills. **3.00** Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart. **5.00** Judge Jules. **7.00** Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party. **9.00** Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. **12.00** Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. **2.00** The Essential Mix: Victor Calderone. **4.0(**) **6.30** Annie Nightingale.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Mo Dutta. **8.05** Brian Matthew. **10.00** Steve Wright's Saturday Show. **1.00** The Smith Lectures. **1.30** Heated Rollers. **2.00** Alan Freeman. **3.30** Johnnie Walker. **5.30** Paul Gambaccini. **7.00** Hendrix on the Radio. See *Pick of the Day*. **8.00** Comic Relief: Meat Loaf in Concert. **9.00** Suzi Quatro: Rockin' with Suzi Q. **10.00** Bob Harris. **1.00** Nicky Horne. **4.00 - 7.00** Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 CD Review.
12.00 Private Passions.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R)
**2.(**) Best of 3.
3.00 Young Artists' Forum.
4.00 BBC National Orchestra of Wales. (R)
4.30 Glennie Masterclass.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests.
6.00 Jazz Century.
6.30 Opera on 3. A gypsy woman burns a baby in revenge for her own mother's execution as a witch. She claims the child was her own, but 20 years later, as her 'son' is hanged under orders from the Count di Luna, his real identity is revealed. The tragic revelation is a fitting climax to one of Verdi's most compelling dramas. Sung in Italian by Michele Crider, soprano (Leonora), Elena Zaremba, mezzo (Azucena), Richard Margison, tenor (Manrico). Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera, New Yor[illegible] Jun Markl. Parts 1 and 2.
7.4[illegible] The Met Opera Quiz. Stuart Hamilton puts listeners' questions to opera fans Ken Benson, Charles Osborne and Patrick Smith.
8.15 Il trovatore, parts 3 and 4.
9.30 Between the Ears. The fourth of six newly commissioned experiments in creative radio. 'The Church of Lanza'.
Mario Lanza had a singing career that lasted ten years, and he cancelled almost as many concerts as he gave. He was a boxer and a gargantuan eater who only ever sang one complete opera in public. Lanza died 40 years ago this year, an obese, bloated and exhausted young man, yet he remains one of the most celebrated and execrated tenor voices of the century, idolised across the world. In an original sound piece for Radio 3, Jakko Jakszyk weaves the voices of Lanza's family, friends and acolytes into a contemplation of the man and the myth.
10.15 Albion Ensemble. Dvorak: Serenade in D minor, Op 44. Mozart: Serenade in B flat, K361.
11.30 Jazz on 3.
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 News Briefing.
6.05 Sports Desk.
6.10 Open Country.
6.57 Weather.
7.00 Today.
9.00 Home Truths.
10.00 News; Loose Ends.
11.00 News; The Food Programme.
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent.
12.00 News; Money Box.
12.30 The Sunday Format.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.15 Any Questions?.
2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870 010 0444.
2.30 Descendants. See *Pick of the Day*.
3.00 News; The Saturday Play: Mr Harrison's Confession. (R)
4.00 News; Weekend Woman's Hour.
5.00 Saturday PM.
5.30 Talking Pictures.
5.54 Shipping Forecast.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Live from London.
7.00 News; Saturday Review.
7.45 Heavenly Thoughts. 'A Woman's Work..'. In the last of three programmes, astronomer Jocelyn Bell Burnell recalls her struggle to become an astrophysicist and then to win acceptance once she got there. (R)
8.00 News; The Archive Hour: Death in the Bush. Former ITN correspondent Desmond Hamill recalls one of the bloodiest uprisings in the last days of the British Empire - the Mau Mau emergency in Kenya, which claimed more than ten thousand lives.
9.00 News; The Classic Serial: Joseph Andrews. The conclusion of Henry Fielding's four-part comic masterpiece, dramatised by Dominic Power. Joseph is raised to the gentry but finds this is no consolation when his sweetheart, Fanny, is revealed to be his long-lost sister. With Norman Rodway, Matthew Dunster and Gabrielle Drake. Director Michael Fox.
10.00 News and Weather.
10.15 The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news.
11.00 News; Airs of England. Richard Coles explores the diverse sounds of Victorian English music. 4: 'Singer on His Feet'. While the Scots, Irish and Welsh are always seen as the rightful owners of British folk music, Tony Engle argues passionately for the traditional English singers and players whose music rang out from the pubs and kitchens of the working classes.
11.30 Fine Lines.
12.00 News.
12.25 Experimental Feature: Star Tales. (R)
12.30 The Late Story: Doolan's Daughter.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Dirty Tackle.
6.30 Breakfast.
9.00 Chiles on Saturday.
11.00 Move It.
11.30 You're Not Singing Any More.
12.00 Sportscall.
1.00 Sport on 5. Rugby Union: Five Nations commentary at 2.00 from Paris, where last year's champions France take on Wales. At 4.00, England play Ireland at Lansdowne Road. Plus news of Scotland's friendly against Italy at Murrayfield. Football: quarter-finals of the FA Cup and the Tennents Scottish Cup.
6.30 The Late Six-O-Six.
8.00 Dallyn UK.
9.00 The Treatment.
10.00 Late Night Currie.
1.00 Up All Night.
2.55 The Australian Grand Prix.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Lucas. **8.00** Countdown. **11.00** Masters of Their Art. **12.00** Mike Read. **3.00** Margaret Howard. **6.00** Classic FM at the Movies. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Opera Guide. **10.00** The Classic Quiz. **12.00** Midnight Music. **2.00** Evening Concert. **4.00 - 6.00** Sunday Start.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.00 Pete and Geoff. **9.00** Harriet Scott. **12.00** Classic Countdown with Russ Williams. **2.00** Rock and Roll Football. **5.30** Wheels of Steel. **10.00** Janey Lee Grace. **2.00 - 6.00** James Merritt.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. **1.30** Best on Record. **2.00** The World Today. **2.30** Agenda. **3.00** The World Today. **3.15** Sports Roundup. **3.30** World Business Review. **3.45** Letter from America. **4.00** The World Today. **4.30** Omnibus. **5.00** The World Today. **5.30 - 6.00** Mapping the World.

TALK RADIO
6.00 OK to Talk. **8.00** Get Your Kit On with Bob Mills. **11.00** It's Round and White - with Tom Watt. **2.00** Saturday Soccer. **5.05** 505 with Gary Newbom and Tom Watt. **7.30** Nancy Roberts. **10.00** Dave Barrett. **2.00 - 6.00** Mike Dickin.

PICK OF THE DAY

ALTHOUGH THERE are entries for Lafcadio Hearn in biographical dictionaries, the name means little over here. In Japan, however, where he is still regarded as a great English writer almost a century after his death, it is uttered in a whisper of veneration. In **Descendants (2.30pm R4)**, the journalist Richard Dowden traces the path of misfortune that lead his one-eyed ancestor to embrace the Japanese way of life with reciprocated warmth.

A programme like **Hendrix on the Radio (7pm R2)** keeps the flame burning with excerpts from sessions the guitarist (*right*) recorded at the BBC during his wild heyday and interviews with friends, musicians and hangers-on to the legend.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Lies He Told (1996) (57525). **8.00** Jingle All the Way (1996) (91612). **10.00** House Arrest (1996) (36612). **12.00** We the Jury (1996) (81235). **2.00** Lies He Told (1996) (77983). **4.00** Jingle All the Way (1996) (89438). **5.30** House Arrest (1996) (83885). **7.30** preview (2083). **8.00** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) (91523362). **10.05** The Glimmer Man (1996) (744506). **11.40** Dead Calm (1989) (885612). **1.20** Dead Silence (1996) (964465). **3.00** A Modern Affair (1994) (53[illegible]85). **4.35 - 6.05** We the Jury (1996) (661[illegible]91).

SKY MOVIEMAX
7.00 Femmes Fatales (18877). **7.30** Action Heroes (1701186). **8.15** Movie Magic (2426964). **9.00** Cosmic Shock (1997) (80506). **11.00** Invisible Dad (1997) (31032). **1.00** Femmes Fatales (17148). **1.30** Action Heroes (5889728). **2.15** Movie Magic (7924419). **3.00** Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) (98896). **5.00** Invisible Dad (1997) (15631). **7.00** Cosmic Shock (1997) (21341). **9.00** Sling Blade (1996) (89378506). **11.20** Swingers (1996) (560952). **1.00** City of Industry (1997) (341465). **2.40** Critical Condition (1987) (762755). **4.15 - 6.00** Showdown in Little Tokyo (1991) (465991).

SKY CINEMA
.00 President's Lady (1953) (8951631). **1.00** Go West, Young Man (1936) 5191167). **12.30** The Earth Dies Screaming (1964) (6595761). **2.00** Diplomatic Courier (1952) (2740896). **4.00** he Story on Page One (1959) (7327983). **.00** President's Lady (1953) (2720032). **.00** Days of Heaven (1978) (2732877). **0.** The Guns of Navarone (1961) 1299070). **12.30** Badlands (1973) 2955991). **2.05** The Seven-Ups (1973) 2519378). **3.50** No Time for Love (1943) 29787991). **5.10** Close.

ILMFOUR
.00 The Cosmic Man (1959) (8701709). **30** Macross Plus (9672322). **8.00** Other eople's Money (1991) (87464728). See *ick of the Day*. **9.40** Seven Shiny Coins 5805964). **10.00** Tin Men (1987) 135902). See *Pick of the Day*. **11.50** Ho- (8043001). **12.00** I am Curious - ellow (1967) (7380303). **2.00** Night of the agle (1962) (9118571). **3.30 - 6.00** Star-ust (1975) (4778007).

ISCOVERY CHANNEL
.00 Flightpath (3227815). **5.00** Century Warfare (8881934). **6.00** Century of arfare (1948273). **7.00** Invisible Places (8097419). **8.00** Fast Cars (8006167). **9.00** Test Pilots (8019631). See *Pick of the Day*. **10.00** Extreme Machines (8089490). **11.00** Century of Warfare (8976341). **12.00** Century of Warfare (9527571). **1.00** Weapons of War (9551002). **2.00** Close.

SKY ONE
7.00 What a Mess (23709). **7.30** Street Sharks (35544). **8.00** The Adventures of Sinbad (83983). **9.00** The Simpsons (96506). **9.30** Garfield and Friends (30438). **10.00** Xena - Warrior Princess (31728). **11.00** World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (11964). **12.00** World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (13761). **1.00** The New Adventures of Superman (39709). **2.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3380). **2.30** America's Dumbest Criminals (6070). **3.00** Guilty! (42709). **4.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (54544). **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (8457). **6.00** Xena: Warrior Princess (42273). **7.00** VIP (56490). **8.00** JAG (72438). **9.00 Film:** Sky One Special Feature: Die Hard 2 (1990) (96748070). **11.15** Beat the Crusher (843254). **12.15** Showbiz Weekly (30858). **12.45** The Big Easy (797552). **1.45** Fire (793736). **2.45 - 6.00** Long Play (58913378).

SKY SPORTS 1
6.00 Hold the Back Page (18964). **7.00** Sky Sports Centre (31544). **8.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (75612). **8.30** Racing News (74983). **9.00** Super League Classics Wigan vs sHull (64631). **10.00** Australian Rugby League (12631). **12.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday (9433525). **5.30** World Wide Rugby - Super 12s Tournament (64612). **7.00** Budweiser Basketball (61983). **9.00** Saturday Fight Night (17525). **11.00** Gillette World Sport Special (71235). **11.30** FA Cup Special (14419). **1.00** Spanish Football (95303). **3.00** Saturday Fight Night (47910). **5.00 - 6.00** Moto Cross (56007).

SKY SPORTS 2
6.00 Sports Unlimited (3269542). **7.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (6911231). **7.30** Racing News (3961916). **8.00** Soccer AM (6642322). **12.00** World Wide Rugby - Super 12s Tournament (6419065). **1.30** Extreme Sailing (1460235). **2.00** Cricket West Indies vs Australia (4239970). **4.00** Second Innings (8015952). **4.30** Cricket West Indies vs Australia (8624709). **9.00** Ford Golf USA (9836099). **12.00** European Tour Golf (8679552). **2.00** Basketball (2933303). **4.00** Max Power (1091804). **5.00** World Sport (8762216). **5.30 - 6.00** Extreme Sailing (2521991).

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 Max Power (19870506). **1.00** European Tour Golf (35629612). **5.00** Extreme Sailing (27439070). **5.30** FA Cup Special (15792780). **7.00** Cycling (27426506). **7.30** Gillette World Sport Special (14353148). **8.00** Spanish Football (33190341). **10.00** Worldwide Rugby (49193693). **11.30** Cycling (94204051). **12.00** Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Athletics (64051). **9.30** Alpine Skiing (61186). **10.30** Biathlon (89815). **11.00** Alpine Skiing (64070). **12.00** Nordic Combined Skiing (17186). **1.00** Athletics (93506). **2.00** Biathlon (39896). **3.00** Cross-Country Skiing (86167). **4.00** Biathlon (98902). **5.00** Ski Jumping (83446815). **6.45** Tennis (6225438). **8.00** Tennis (7612). **8.30** Ice Skating (62032). **10.00** Athletics (22457). **11.00** Sumo (52235). **12.00** Boxing (68002). **1.00** Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Angels (8969051). **7.30** Neighbours Omnibus (63121709). **9.25** Dallas Omnibus (17194051). **12.10** EastEnders Omnibus (5212341). **3.00** The Bill Omnibus (50637693). **5.20** Butterflies (2836983). **6.00 Film:** Doctor at Large (1957) (8007896). **8.00** What a Carry On! (2782693). **8.35** Harry Enfield and Chums (3057877). **9.15** The Thin Blue Line (1484877). **9.55** Red Dwarf V (6206544). **10.35** Monty Python's Flying Circus (3107631). **11.15** Live at Jongleurs (8519322). **11.50 Film:** Sweet Liberty (1986) (6836235). **1.45** Yes, Minister (1848991). **2.20** Rock Goes to College (3102194). **3.00 - 7.00** Shopping with Screenshop (8327552).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (79855728). **6.20** 10 plus 2 (48289761). **6.40** Philbert the Frog (98858341). **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang (98857612). **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts (98845877). **7.00** Practical Parenting (3624544). **7.05** Alfred J Kwak (7776273). **7.25** Tiny and Crew '98 (3603051). **7.30** Caillou (6226099). **7.35** Bug Alert (7197631). **7.55** Parenting (9212693). **8.00** Johnson and Friends (8676877). **8.10** Tiny and Crew '98 (1623254). **8.15** Bedtime Stories (8664032). **8.25** Babaloos (1628709). **8.30** Tiny Tales (3496490). **8.35** Tiny and Crew (4333728). **8.50** Parenting (8860457). **9.00** Mrs Greenthumbs (8547896). **9.30** LA Law Omnibus (8534411). **12.00** The Jerry Springer Weekend - from Midday to Midnight (2653964). **8.00** The Jerry Springer UK Special - behind the Scenes (6039167). **8.40** The Jerry Springer Show - UK Special (6860525). **9.30** Jerry Springer Weekend (4294525). **12.00** Close.

TNT
9.00 The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968) (33197254). **11.00** The Cincinnati Kid (1965) (23010490). **1.00** Guns for San Sebastian (1968) (23938842). **3.00** The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1968) (17436674). **5.00** Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Jenny (1438). **7.30** Grace Under Fire (4457). **8.00** Ellen (5506). **8.30** Spin City (9693). **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey (57032). **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? (81761). **10.00** Frasier (77070). **10.30** Cheers (53490). **11.00** Seinfeld (79877). **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show (30525). **12.00 Film:** It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World (1963) (53419151). **2.50** Gogs (4829823). **3.00** Nightstand (85484). **3.30** Abbott & Costello (24644). **4.00** Close.

GRANADA PLUS
6.00 Jason King (6982964). **7.00** Bootsie and Snudge (3304001). **7.30** That's My Boy (4659998). **8.00** Watching (4579709). **8.30** No Strings (4561780). **9.00** Mission: Impossible (7708273). **10.00** Persuaders (2754362). **11.00** Man in a Suitcase (8354506). **12.00** Fiddlers Three (4572896). **12.30** Emmerdale (1609964). **3.00** Bonanza (2179983). **4.00** The High Chaparral (2158490). **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (4413998). **6.00** The Persuaders (1968341). **7.00** Mission: Impossible (9289148). **8.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (9298896). **9.00** Audience with Dame Edna Everage (9278032). **10.00** An Audience with Dudley Moore (9288419). **11.00** As Granada Men & Motors until 2.00am (2339344). **2.00** Close.

PICK OF THE DAY

DANNY DEVITO (*right*) has made a little go a long way. He is perhaps at his best in weasel-like roles such as this one in **Other People's Money (8pm FilmFour)**. In Norman Jewison's enjoyable romp, DeVito plays an unscrupulous asset-stripper. "I like dogs, donuts and money," he enthuses, "but best of all, I like money. It doesn't make you fat, and it doesn't poop on your carpet." He is equally well-cast in the second half of FilmFour's DeVito double bill, **Tin Men (10pm)**, where he and Richard Dreyfuss play warring salesmen.

Tonight's episode of **Test Pilots (9pm Discovery)** charts the course of experimental flight. It follows a naval test pilot as he attempts a "spin recovery", which in layman's terms is the set of manoeuvres required to regain control of a fighter-jet that has gone into a strong tail-spin.

JAMES RAMPTON

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BC1 N IRELAND
s BBC1 except: 5.40 Final Score 00235). **6.00** Northern Ireland Results 50457). **6.30** Newsline (498490). **11.55** arkinson (908506). **12.50** Jasper Carrott Back to the Front (3043804). **1.20** Top of e Pops (9521668). **1.50** Joins BBC ews 24 (18256133).

BC1 SCOTLAND
s BBC1 except: 12.15 Grandstand om Scotland (7550457). **1.10** Scottish p Football Build-Up (41452780). **1.20** gby Union Preview Scotland v Italy. A ok ahead to this afternoon's match at urrayfield. (57920525). **1.45** Athletics 73612). **2.15** Scottish Cup Football Team ews (40880032). **2.30** Rugby Union cotland v Italy (8334983). **3.15** Rugby nion France v Wales (4036322). **3.20** gby Union Scotland v Italy (1262490). **00** Rugby Union Ireland v England 423235). **4.40** Rugby Union Scotland v 5861148). **4.50** Rugby Union Ireland England (5076812). **5.35** Afternoon portscene (303322). **5.55** Fresh Prince Bel Air. American sitcom about a reetwise kid from a Philadelphia ghetto ho lives in the wealthiest community in alifornia. (784148). **6.30** Reporting cotland (498490). **10.35** Sportscene - Match of the Day (6736322). **11.55** The Lily Savage Show (957902).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 except: 5.40 Final Score (696544). **5.50** Wales on Saturday (709457). **6.30** Wales Today (498490).

ANGLIA
As LWT except: 12.30 Stepping the World. Richard Hall visits California, stopping off at San Francisco where he goes to Alcatraz, Chinatown, the Golden Gate Bridge, and sees a colony of seals. Then it's onto Carmel, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Disneyland. (87322). **1.05** Anglia News and Weather (41466983). **3.50** Airwolf. Action adventure series about a hi-tech helicopter and its heroic pilot. (6321457). **5.05** Anglia News and Sport (3779815). **10.40** News; Weekend Weather (928772).

CENTRAL
As LWT except: 12.30 Premiere. A lively guide to what's on in the Central region, covering music, movies, art and theatre. (87322). **1.05** Central News and Weather (41466983). **3.50** TimeCop (6321457). **5.05** Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (3779815). **5.10** Spotlight Asia (8022945).

HTV WALES
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (87322). **1.00** News Headlines; National Weather (41467612). **1.05** HTV News (41466983). **3.50** Pirate TV. Two friends embark on a journey around Britain's best adventure sports locations in an attempt at setting up their own television station. In this edition, the duo attempt to interview climber Jerry Moffatt. (9783254). **4.20** Dinosaurs (5763438). **5.05** HTV Wales News and Sport (3779815).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 12.30 Sportsweek (87322). **1.00** News; Weather (41467612). **3.50** Movies, Games and Videos (9783254). **4.20** Pirate TV (5763438). **5.05** HTV West News and Sport (3779815). **5.20** West Match Plus (3741032). **10.40** News Headlines; National Weather (928772).

MERIDIAN
As LWT except: 12.30 Pier Pressure (87322). **1.05** Meridian News and Weather (41466983). **3.50** Hollywood's Greatest Stunts (6321457). **5.05** Meridian News and Weather (3779815). **10.40** News; Weather (928772).

WESTCOUNTRY
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (87322). **1.05** Westcountry News (41466983). **3.50** seaQuest DSV. Sci-fi drama series set aboard a futuristic submarine. Tony and Dagwood share a strange dream caused by a psychic intent on getting his hands on some of the seaQuest's cargo. (6321457). **5.05** Westcountry News (3779815). **10.40** News; Weekend Weather (928772).

YORKSHIRE
As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs. Domesticated dinosaur sitcom. When Earl is told he can take a vacation, the Sinclairs visit WeSaySoLand, an amusement park, but find it less than amusing. (87322). **1.05** Calendar News and Weather (41466983). **5.05** Calendar News and Weather (3119772). **5.10** Goals Extra (4098341). **10.40** News; Weather (928772).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (41466983). **5.05** North East News and Weather (3119772). **5.10** Full Time. All the action, news and reports on the day's North East sport. (4098341).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 1.00 The Three Stooges (70318167). **1.20** Rygbi: Pencampwriaeth y Pum Gwlad 1999 (46469612). **3.55** Newyddion (60780032). **4.00** Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster (53101964). **5.05** Film: The Oklahoma Kid*. James Cagney takes the title role in land rush Western. Cagney didn't sit in the saddle too often and neither did his adversary – none other than Humphrey Bogart is outlaw leader Whip McCord. (90266457). **6.30** Film: C'mon Midfield. Comedy drama. (3110612). **7.45** Newyddion a Chwaraeon (60238438). **8.00** Gwahoddiad (90436761). **8.30** Dilyn Ddoe: Megan Lloyd George (90455896). **9.00** Dan yr Wyneb (68559148). **9.30** The Coroner (79998896). **10.30** Top Ten - Heavy Metal (86122186). **12.05** Sounds of the Suburbs (9064823). **12.40** Exploitica (3276736). **1.15** Exploitrail (4754620). **1.35** Pop-Up Video (7363571). **2.00** Film: House on a Bare Mountain. Adult drama about a charm school for buxom young ladies which is raided by the police on the night of their annual costume ball. (3223200). **3.05** Trip (12433991). **3.30** Clangers (16590620). **3.45** Hill Street (6361194). **4.35** Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

WHILE THE boys have been bashing each others' brains out in Linares, Fide's world champion Anatoly Karpov has also been in action, in sadly pale contrast, in a match with Jeroen Piket in Monaco.

Organised by the Dutch multi-millionaire Joop van Oosterom's Association, Max Euwe, this eight-game contest took place from 21 February to 2 March. It contained hard fighting chess with both players generally working hard as White in the opening to try to establish small advantages and then striving vigorously to convert them. There were also some passages of attacking play. But the final disappointing if worthy result was complete deadlock in eight draws.

Disappointing, that is, to us the (virtual) onlookers and to Karpov. But certainly not to Jeroen Piket, currently rated 50th in the world on 2,619, who showed excellent technique and nerves. Even as a shadow of his former greatness, Karpov still has the raw power to play superb chess. But nowadays he requires some "encouragement" from the opponent and it is greatly to Piket's credit this was not forthcoming.

Since his pyrrhic victory against an exhausted Viswanathan Anand last January, Karpov has, understandably but annoyingly, done everything in his power to prolong his reign as Fide champion to the stipulated two years. Nevertheless, the Fide Championships are currently still scheduled for June/July, allegedly in Las Vegas – though I'll believe it when I see it.

A new champion from there would have real credibility. The even more difficult task of effecting some sort of reconciliation with Gary Kasparov could then begin.

This was the third game. Karpov got a reasonable position in the opening – of course he avoided 13 ...Rxe3? when 14 Bxf6! (but not 14 Bh7+? Nxh7!) Nxf6 15 Bh7+ wins material. Piket gave up the exchange in return for two potentially dangerous passed pawns and play on the black squares but Karpov's passed "a pawn" gave counterplay.

Black can try 28 ...Qb7 but after 29 Rb1! it doesn't achieve much. On move 30, Karpov decided to bail out by returning the exchange. The resultant endgame was favourable to White but Karpov held fairly easily.

White: Jeroen Piket
White: Anatoly Karpov
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 Qc2 0-0
5 a3 Bxc3+
6 Qxc3 b6
7 Bg5 Bb7
8 f3 d5
9 e3 Nbd7
10 cxd5 exd5
11 Bd3 Re8
12 Ne2 h6
13 Bh4 c5
14 0-0 Qe7
15 Bf2 a5
16 b4 axb4
17 axb4 c4
18 Bc2 b5
19 Qb2 Bc6
20 Nc3 Nb6
21 Ra5! Na4
22 Bxa4 bxa4
23 Rc5 a3
24 Qd2 Rec8
25 Bh4 g5
26 Bg3 Nd7
27 Ra1 Nxc5
28 dxc5 Re8
29 Kf2 Qf6
30 Ra2 Reb8
31 Bxb8 Rxb8
32 Ne2 c3
33 Qxc3 Qxc3
34 Nxc3 Rxb4
35 Rxa3 Rc4
36 Ne2 Rxc5
37 Nd4 Bd7
38 Ra8+ Kg7
39 Ra7 Bc8
40 g4 Kf6
41 h3 h5
42 gxh5 Bxh3
43 h6 Bc6
44 Ra6 Rc4
45 Ke2 Rc8
46 f4 gxf4
47 exf4 Rh8
48 f5 Ke5
49 fxe6 fxe6
50 Nf3+ Kf6
51 Nd4 Ke5
52 Nxe6 ½-½

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

North-South fame; dealer West

North
♠A J 4
♡10 8 6
◇A 8 4
♣K 7 6 5

West	East
♠none	♠7 5 3 2
♡K Q J 9 7 5	♡4 3 2
◇Q 10 3	◇J 7 6 2
♣J 10 8 4	♣3 2

South
♠K Q 10 9 8 6
♡A
◇K 9 5
♣A Q 9

THIS WAS a deal of fluctuating fortunes. There was a straightforward play for South to make his grand slam but, as it seemed unlikely to succeed, declarer tried another tack. When this seemed to have failed, he committed the cardinal sin of conceding one off, having unknowingly reached a winning position!

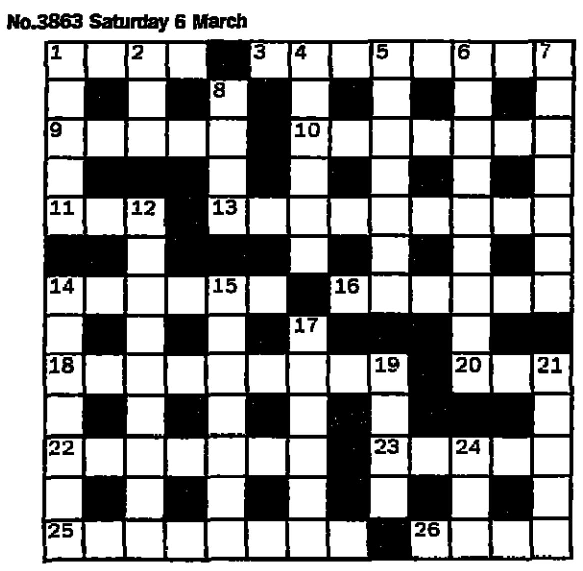
West chose a good moment to open Three Hearts but, in spite of this, North-South did well to reach the grand slam in spades – not an easy task, having started the bidding at such a high level. West led the king of hearts against Seven Spades and declarer could see only 12 top winners. There were, however, many chances – the clubs might break evenly and there were all sorts of squeeze possibilities. As the cards lay, simply playing off all the trumps and the two top diamonds would have squeezed West in hearts and clubs but, as West was marked with long hearts, the chance of him holding the clubs as well seemed remote.

Perhaps a double squeeze? thought South. Ah! That looked promising – with West holding the heart and East the clubs, neither could keep a diamond guard. So he drew four rounds of trumps and tested the clubs. To his annoyance, it was West who held the length there all the time. With the comment "Someone will make a diamond at the end!" he gave up (snatching defeat from the jaws of victory).

I said that he was in a winning position – why should he have played on? The key factor is that West happened to hold two of the three missing diamond honours. After three rounds of clubs South should ruff a heart in hand and cash his last trump. West would be forced to retain ♡Q and ♣J in front of dummy, so compelled to bare his queen of diamonds. Then the ace of diamonds could be followed by the now marked finesse of the nine for the 13th trick.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3863 Saturday 6 March



ACROSS
1 Occupy entire space within (4)
3 Washes (8)
9 Conductor's stick (5)
10 Whole number (7)
11 Supernatural being (5)
13 Debauchee (9)
14 Activity (6)
16 Customer (6)
18 Footwear (4-5)
20 Cutting tool (3)
22 Greed (7)
23 Rebuke (5)
25 Subtle additional meaning (8)
26 Ring of bells (4)

DOWN
1 Story with moral (5)
2 OT character (3)
4 With hand on hip (6)
5 Normal (7)
6 Kitchen utensils (3-6)
7 Snake (7)
8 Blue dye (4)
12 Hold spellbound (9)
14 Ruminant (7)
15 Radical (7)
17 Rule (6)
19 Footwear item (4)
21 Turn sharply (5)
24 Frozen water (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Scents, 4 Sybil (Sensible), 8 Recap, 9 Theorem, 10 Neural, 11 Shin, 12 Lid, 14 Lens, 15 Inch, 18 Sic, 21 Obey, 23 Almoner, 25 Sultana, 26 Needy, 27 Notch, 28 Astern. DOWN: 1 Sprint, 2 Exclude, 3 Top brass, 4 Seed, 5 Birch, 6 Lament, 7 Still, 13 Diamonds, 16 Concede, 17 Worsen, 19 Canal, 20 Crayon, 22 Eilat, 24 Rash.

JASPER REES

TELEVISION REVIEW

THE BUILDERS (BBC1) looks like a building site. A fortnight into the job, it's a complete mess: storylines strewn all over the place, heaven knows how they'll ever get the work finished, and to be honest, you're looking forward to the moment they get out of your home for good. Welcome to another docu-soap with a sibling in the drama department. After *Holiday Reps* came *Sunburn*, a drama about holiday reps. And after *Grafters*, a drama about builders, meet *The Builders*. Television's well of ideas has run so dry that you can shortly expect a docu-soap called *The Continuity Announcers*. With a matching four-part drama to follow, called *And Now for Something Completely Derivative*.

The construction industry and the docu-soap were made for each other, much as Sodom was made for Gomorrah. Each brings out the worst in the other. Builders are mostly readymade "characters" for whom a camera is just another ear to gabble into – perfect for the docu-soap that can't be bothered to work for results. One of the builders the programme follows is a tree trunk called Swanny in Suffolk.

Beryl Bainbridge, the new scourge of regional diversity, wouldn't approve of him, with his accent as wide as a barn-yard door. And he's not abashed to admit that he fancies the arse – which he occasionally fondles – off the farmer's wife he's working for.

This form of TV show is also a sucker for the specious deadlines that are, ahem, built into any construction schedule. Will this job be done before it rains? Will that job be done before the brickie goes to the football match? In one of the storylines there was even a house that had to be completely decorated in 12 days. You were never actually told why – the programme was far too excited by the idea of a slow, tense countdown to zero hour. To make it even more perfect, the house was owned by a gravel-voiced, ramrod actor, who stalked the premises barking orders as if auditioning for the part of a Latin American despot. I smelt an almighty rat. Viewers may recall a carbon-copy race against the clock in the last episode of *Grafters*. You never trust builders, and I don't much trust *The Builders*, either.

Incidentally, this thirst for deadlines has thrown up an annoying syntactical oddity. It doesn't matter who's doing the voiceover – in this case, Arthur Smith, first on the list to voice all programmes about blue-collar workers – but the construction is always the same. "Six o'clock, and the cement lorry still hasn't arrived"; "Seven o'clock, and the team have been working all night." Half past eight, and isn't there something better on Channel 5?

Of course the heightening of tension is entirely bogus. Building work is painfully slow and undramatic. There's not much *The Builders*, held together by endless rivers of cement and vast oceans of tea, can do to mask that. The one genuinely funny moment was when one of the workmen reported that his other half had just had a baby. Apparently, she was in labour for only 35 minutes. Even builders' wives can meet a deadline when they want to.

MOTOWN LIVE.

This new series, exclusive to UK Arena, features live performances from USA's hottest R'n B acts and celebrates the motown legend with some of the labels most renowned talent. Tonight's guests include Wyclef Jean, Earth Wind and Fire and The Temptations.

Starts Tonight 6.10pm

UK ARENA

BBC1

7.00 The Munsters (T) (7885457). **7.25** News; Weather (7721273).

7.30 Children's BBC: Fireman Sam (R) (6907815). **7.40** Little Monsters (S) (9587780). **7.50** The Incredible Hulk (R) (T) (8675167). **8.15** Hero Turtles – the Next Mutation (S) (3857273). **8.35** The Flintstones (R) (S) (2043728). **9.00** Live and Kicking (S) (86935167).

12.10 News; Weather (T) (7551186).

12.15 Grandstand (S) (7550457). **12.20** Football Focus (3865902). **1.10** Athletics (41075186). **1.40** Rugby Union: France vs Wales. Live coverage from the Stade de France in Paris (kick-off at 2pm) (T) (56527709). **3.45** Football Half-Times (5399631). **3.50** Rugby Union: Ireland vs England. Live coverage from Lansdowne Road (kick-off at 4pm) (T) (5387896). **4.45** Football Full-Time News (5860419). **4.55** Rugby Union: Second-half coverage of Ireland vs England (T) (5076983). **5.40** Final Score (747525).

6.20 News; Weather (T) (638896).

6.30 Regional News and Weather (498490).

6.35 Get Your Act Together. South Londoner Chris Murrell, 24, and Katie Halliday, 20, from Ormskirk get their pop makeovers (S) (T) (904341).

7.05 Noel's House Party (S) (313902).

7.50 The National Lottery – We've Got Your Number. Brian Conley presents another attempt to squeeze a prime-time show out of the lottery draw (S) (T) (643148).

8.15 Casualty. The first half of a two-part cliffhanger to end the current series. A bank heist goes badly wrong as Josh and George are taken hostage (S) (T) (607457).

9.05 City Central. Northern plod drama – quite improved since the first series. It was a brave move to chop one of their stars (former *EastEnders* heart-throb Paul Nicholls) at such a tender stage in the run. The team is united in grief at Terry's memorial service (S) (T) (513506).

9.55 Holiday Reps. Another compilation from the docu-soap about travel reps in the Med. Eve's mum arrives in Menorca to check out her daughter's Spanish boyfriend. And Debbie and Caroline fall out over a man (777490).

10.20 News; Weather (T) (927693).

10.35 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of the best of the action from the FA Cup and the Premiership (S) (T) (6736322).

11.55 Jasper Carrott – Back to the Front (S) (T) (957902).

12.25 FILM Blood Ties (Jim McBride 1991 US). Knowing and fairly enjoyable stab at a contemporary vampire thriller from the director of *Breathless*, *The Big Easy* and *Great Balls of Fire*. Centuries of war between a tribe of Carpathian bloodsuckers and a family of vampire hunters spills over into modern America (S) (9046823).

1.55 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (7358649). To 2.25am.

BBC2

7.05 Open University: Hubbard Brook – the Chemistry of a Forest (4530380). **7.30** Debates about Boxing (84896). **8.00** Weekend 24 (S) (41983). **9.00** Personal Passions (4679341). **9.15** Open Saturday (2577780). **10.35** Cyber Art (6197544). **10.40** See Hear! (2077273). **11.25** Food and Drink (3342631).

11.55 FILM Gunfight in Abilene (William Hale 1967 US). Sixties crooner Bobby Darin plays a US Civil War veteran who renounces violence, only to be made sheriff of a small town (6626070).

1.20 FILM Lilies of the Field (Ralph Nelson 1963 US). The first of two films starring Sidney Poitier today won Poitier an Oscar for his role as the "simple" handyman who has a profound effect on a group of German-speaking nuns when he comes to fix their church (T) (7763506).

2.50 FILM Run of the Arrow (Samuel Fuller 1957 US). Unrepentant ex-Confederate soldier Rod Steiger decides to team up with the Sioux Indians (T) (4446047).

4.15 One Man and His Dog (S) (T) (786693). **4.45** Space 1999 (S) (T) (1549761).

5.35 TOTP 2. Bucks Fizz, ABC and Tight Fit are retrieved from the archives for the show that's become half the fun since everyone's gone on the comeback trail (S) (307896).

6.20 Crufts 99 – a Canine Affair. A preview of the dog show, which starts in Birmingham next week (659254).

6.50 Scrutiny. After 12 years of living in London and Tokyo, Gordon Brewer travels back to his native Scotland as it prepares to embrace home rule. Brewer sets out to ask what being Scottish is all about (S) (599235).

7.30 Correspondent. Fergal Keane presents the programme from the war-torn West African country of Sierra Leone. Sue Lloyd Roberts investigates bride-stealing in Kyrgyzstan, a former republic in Central Asia, and Irian Jara reveals evidence of Indonesian army atrocities on the island of Biak (S) (202032).

8.15 Cold War. "Thaw 1969-75". The years that brought the word "detente" into general usage, and which began as an indirect result of President Nixon's talks with the North Vietnamese leadership to bring an end to the Vietnam War. Having had a taste of life as a peacemonger, Nixon went on to meet Brezhnev to sign the first Salt agreement (S) (T) (407439).

9.05 CHOICE In the Heat of the Night (Norman Jewison 1967 US). Oscar-winning thriller teaming black cop Sidney Poitier with bigotted Southern sheriff Rod Steiger to investigate a murder. See *Film of the Day*, below (T) (40735693).

10.50 If I Ruled the World. Clive Anderson hosts the satirical quiz show. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn (R) (S) (T) (737709).

11.20 CHOICE Unmade Beds. The New York singles' scene anatomised in this award-winning documentary. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (516506).

12.55 FILM The Threepenny Opera (GW Pabst 1931 Ger/US). Bertolt Brecht sued Pabst's production company over what he saw as the manhandling (and dilution) of his anti-capitalist satire. A fine piece of Expressionist film-making all the same, with Lotte Lenya recreating her stage role as the whore Jenny (562620). To 2.45am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (5053457).

9.25 SMTV Live. Kavana and Billie mind your children (S) (75979525).

11.30 CD UK (S) (72544). **12.30** Wannabe (87322). **1.00** ITN News; Weather (T) (41467612). **1.05** London Weekend Today (T) (41466983). **1.10** On the Ball (T) (7151728). **1.45** NBA 99 (T) (168780).

2.15 F1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying. Another chance (for those who weren't awake in the early hours of this morning) to catch the qualifying sessions of the opening Formula One race of the new season (S) (T) (377506).

3.50 Early Edition (S) (6321457). **4.45** ITN News; Sports Results; Weather (T) (1793916). **5.05** London Weekend Tonight (T) (3779815). **5.20** Cartoon Time (3741032).

5.40 The New Addams Family. Morticia and Gomez each suspect the other of being a cat burglar; Wednesday and Pugsley have a bet on who can stay quiet the longest (S) (436099).

6.10 Don't Try This at Home! The County Durham vicar who fed man-eating sharks by hand and the Texas stuntman who shared a sleeping bag with six deadly rattlesnakes are two of the fools remembered by Davina McCall as she presents highlights from the last two series (S) (T) (192051).

7.05 Blind Date. Did Safoura and Aaron find romance at their aerobics class – and did love conquer all for Jack and Ida on their trip to Tapei? (Followed by *National Lottery Result*) (S) (T) (949341).

8.05 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant offers several more chances to win £1m in this exciting quiz show (S) (T) (120099).

9.05 FILM Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (Steve Oedekerk 1995 US). And you thought *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective* was dire. Well, meet its sequel, with Jim Carrey reprising his role (if you can call it that) as the detective who specialises in tracking down missing pets. In this crass nonsense, he's summoned to a remote African kingdom by British consul Simon Callow, to try to find a Great White Bat and thus prevent a tribal war (S) (T) (47598525).

10.40 ITN News; Weather; Lottery Result (T) (928772).

11.00 FILM Conan the Barbarian (John Milius 1982 US). Musclebound sword'n'scorcery epic which boosted Arnold Schwarzenegger's career. He seeks to avenge his parents' death at the hands of a shape-shifting James Earl Jones (aka "Thulsa Doom") (22536815).

1.15 The Empire Film Awards. Like we need more movie awards. Mariella Frostrup is MC (S) (4268552).

2.00 F1: Australian Grand Prix Live. Live action from Albert Park in Melbourne. The race actually starts at 3am (S) (22949571). To 5.10am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (43612). **7.00** T4: Bush Tales (R) (2503631). **7.10** T4: Dig, Dug and Daisy (R) (S) (2509815). **7.20** Animal Alphabet (R) (7706964). **7.30** Pippi Longstocking (S) (T) (79964). **8.00** T4: Transworld Sport (R) (36051). **9.00** Morning Line (S) (73341). **10.00** Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (75148). **11.00** Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (88612). **12.00** Board Stupid (50780). **12.30** High 5 (T) (6184438).

1.05 FILM Broken Arrow (Delmer Daves 1950 US). Fondly remembered western about the conflict between settlers and Apaches in post-Civil War Arizona, with James Stewart as the ex-Union officer who marries an Apache princess (Debra Paget). Delmer Daves directs with his usual keen eye for landscape, and the deftly subversive script was written by the (uncredited) blacklisted writer, Albert Maltz (T) (7752490).

2.35 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster. Simon Holt is at the Yorkshire race course, introducing the 3.05, 3.35, 4.10 and 4.40pm races (87686815).

5.05 Brookside Omnibus. Last week's Mersey grief in full. An evening with Karen and Andy gets to Jackie. Matt and Bosko cause a stir on the parade (R) (S) (T) (3164983).

6.30 Channel 4 News; Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T) (709).

7.00 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton introduces the access TV show. Phone 0990 044444 with your complaints (T) (671438).

7.35 Access All Areas. The disability documentary series features a woman, paralysed after a skydiving accident, who has to fight Bradford Social Services for the right to keep the baby she is expecting (S) (T) (711344).

8.05 Thomas Country. Satirist Mark Thomas turns current-affairs reporter to expose how moneyed interests can often be behind "pro-countryside" views. Posing as a farmer who wants to bring money in and keep townies out, and as a pest controller, he hits the sticks to prove his point (T) (111341).

9.05 CHOICE Top Ten – Heavy Metal. New series that attempts to select the top 10 acts in six different musical genres, starting with heavy metal. See *Music Show of the Day*, below (T) (9507065).

10.35 Sex and the City. Carrie wonders how many people are having sex with partners they are ashamed of (T) (726693).

11.05 Queer as Folk. Vince, who is not "out" at work, is pursued by a female colleague (T) (546780).

11.45 John Peel's Sounds of the Suburbs. Pop's debt to Oxford's Cowley Road (T) (414877).

12.20 4 Later: Exploitica – Gals and Ghouls (2169561). **12.55** 4 Later: Exploitrail – House on a Bare Mountain (T) (1685007). **1.15** 4 Later: Pop-Up Video (9526113).

1.40 FILM 4 Later: House on a Bare Mountain (RL Frost 1962 US). Exploiter about a topless charm school invaded by monsters (2268571). To 2.45am.

Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (8945964). **6.30** Havakazoo (R) (5342761). **7.00** 5 News and Sport (S) (8227815). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (2742341). **7.35** Wimzie's House (R) (4721070). **8.00** Lassie (R) (S) (2944693). **8.30** Wishbone (R) (S) (2943964). **9.00** Land of the Lost (R) (2907544). **9.30** Kablam! (R) (S) (1321186). **10.00** Loggerheads (R) (5366341). **10.30** The Wonder Years (2963728). **11.00** The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (T) (3644273). **11.30** Footy Shorts (S) (60956544). **11.45** Beverly Hills, 90210 (R) (S) (T) (5584970). **12.40** Singled Out (R) (S) (81908457). **1.05** Bang Liberty (S) (23079457). **1.30** RAD (46644322). **1.50** 5 News (S) (T) (66383490).

2.00 Sportsweek on 5. Channel 5's rag-bag Saturday afternoon sports programme makes the most of Chelsea's European Cup Winners' Cup game against Valerenga. The rest is the usual mix of ice-hockey, motorcycle supercross and Dutch soccer (S) (1997902).

3.30 Sunset Beach Omnibus. The week's madness in full (R) (S) (T) (71184269).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (9443341).

6.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. The half-man, half-bodybuilder teams up with Xena to pursue her former lieutenant, Darphus, who has risen from the dead to carry out Ares' evil plan to rule the world (R) (S) (2456631).

6.55 Night Fever. Claudia Winkleman, Sarah MacTravers, Isla Fisher, Maureen Rees, Daniella Brown, Shaun Williamson, Sean McGuire, Junior Simpson, Adam Garcia and Ken Morley join Suggs for another edition of the hectic karaoke show (R) (S) (9746099).

7.45 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (3775051).

8.05 The World's Wildest Daredevils. Almost an hour of stunt footage – enough to get all but the most danger-phobic throwing themselves headfirst through a plate-glass, fifth-storey window (5292419).

9.00 FILM All Lies End in Murder (Andy Wolk 1997 US). Kim Delaney's life begins to implode when she discovers that her policeman husband is involved in corruption. A neat twist on the grafting coppers genre, but handled with no particular imagination or style (S) (T) (49341525).

10.40 FILM Confessions of a Pop Performer (Norman Cohen 1975 UK). Robin Askwith gives up the window-cleaning round to manage a second-rate pop group. If you've been buying the *Days Like These* image of the mid-1970s on ITV, try the real the thing instead (41751167).

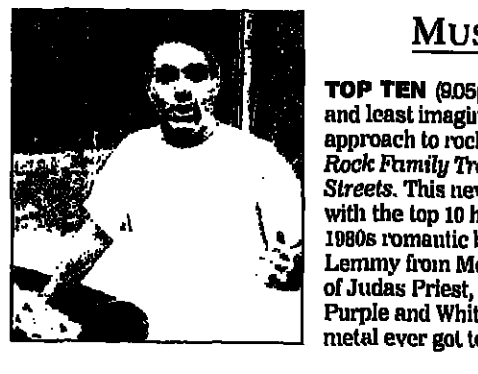
12.20 FILM Death of a Salesman (Volker Schlöndorff 1985 US). Stagey filmed version of the 1984 Broadway revival of Arthur Miller's American tragedy, with Dustin Hoffman overly technical in the role of Willy Loman. John Malkovich and Stephen Lang play his sons (97628991).

2.55 Simon, Simon (45278823). **3.30** Russell Grant's Postcards (45278823). **3.50** Riptide (4990303). To 4.40am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

UNMADE BEDS (11.20pm BBC2, *right*) The latest documentary from Nicholas Barker, who brought us *Sign of the Times* (about people and their taste in interior design) and the less successful *From A to B – Tales of British Motoring* (people and their cars). *Unmade Beds* follows four single New Yorkers and their quest to find a relationship through the personal ads. Barker specialises in neutral, artfully framed films (very different from the current glut of busy, videotaped docu-soaps), but what is really awe-inspiring is the complete lack of self-consciousness of his subjects. Dark, funny and very desperate – the flip-side of the glossy fantasy that is *Sex and the City*.



MUSIC SHOW OF THE DAY

TOP TEN (9.05pm C4, *right*) Lists are probably the laziest and least imaginative journalistic peg – a more deftly handled approach to rock and pop history was illustrated by BBC2's *Rock Family Trees* and the encyclopaedic *Dancing in the Streets*. This new series, however, takes it straight, starting with the top 10 heavy metal acts of all time (with the 10 best 1980s romantic bands, disco, country and glam acts to follow). Lemmy from Motorhead is our guide to the various delights of Judas Priest, Rainbow, Black Sabbath, Def Leppard, Deep Purple and Whitesnake. Motorhead themselves, the nearest metal ever got to punk, also make an appearance.

FILM OF THE DAY

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT (9.05pm BBC2, *right*) The movie that triumphed over both *Bonnie and Clyde* and *The Graduate* at the 1968 Oscars; the actual ceremony was postponed because of the assassination of Martin Luther King in Tennessee, the state in which most of this race-clash thriller was filmed. Rod Steiger also won an Oscar for his portrayal of the shrewd and crude Southern sheriff forced to team up with urbane Philadelphia policeman Sidney Poitier to investigate the murder of a local industrialist. To everyone's credit, the film is warm and affirmative where it could have been exploitative. Two "sequels" followed.